




Speech By
Hermann Vorster

MEMBER FOR BURLEIGH

Record of Proceedings, 18 September 2025

PRIVATE MEMBER STATEMENT

Multiculturalism

 **Mr VORSTER** (Burleigh—LNP) (2.52 pm): As I outlined in my first speech, I am a migrant. During my lifetime I have held four citizenships. My mother is Sicilian, I was born in Africa, I grew up in New Zealand, and when I was 15 my parents saw fit to take our family from New Zealand to a land of greater opportunity and promise—a land that could offer us prosperity right across the ditch: Australia, and not just anywhere in Australia but to the great state of Queensland. In 2004 I became an Australian citizen and in that moment, although I was a migrant, I became wholly Australian and I have never—not once—felt that I was not in my home, a home being a place where you make sacrifice for your family. In this very season our nation and our state are confronted by very ugly conversations and it is tearing at the fabric of what it means to be a Queenslander and to be an Australian.

In my capacity as the Assistant Minister for Multicultural Affairs, assisting our very fine Minister for Multiculturalism, the Hon. Fiona Simpson, I have sought to drive a bipartisan note around multiculturalism, because I know what it feels like to be a migrant; I know what it feels like to commit yourself to Australia and to want nothing more than to be accepted—and not just accepted by one side of politics but by the whole society.

Just a few weeks ago I had the opportunity to call out extremist rhetoric at a conference on the Gold Coast. Representing the Premier, I stood up and acknowledged the presence of the Leader of the Opposition and I welcomed his attendance there. I said that multiculturalism can never be a partisan issue because when it becomes a partisan issue you divide communities. The contribution in this chamber from the member for Jordan was disgraceful. She is not fit to be the shadow minister for multiculturalism. We are building a better Queensland. Do not listen to her rhetoric; tear it down.