




Speech By
James Martin

MEMBER FOR STRETTON

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MOTION

Multicultural Communities

 **Mr MARTIN** (Stretton—ALP) (4.21 pm): I am very lucky to represent a fantastic multicultural community, but when it comes to community cohesion and multiculturalism the LNP certainly needs to do better. I often say in this place that multiculturalism is a strength, not a weakness, and the evidence is right there for everyone to see in my community in the census data—higher than average education levels, higher than average household income, lower unemployment. That is why it is so frustrating to see the LNP and its Premier stay silent and not condemn racist rallies—the so-called take back Australia rallies. There has been silence from the Premier and, worse still, we heard the Deputy Premier defend the right of protesters to protest. That is not community cohesion.

These were not marches about housing policy or infrastructure; they were about blaming every problem our country faces on migrants, with the Indian community being singled out for extra hate. There were no chants about tax settings or housing approvals. Instead, there were chants of ‘send them home’ and ‘this is Australia—eff off’. If we are talking about community cohesion, it is that kind of behaviour that members of the LNP need to stand up to, but we all know they cannot. The truth is: they say one thing when they meet multicultural community leaders and attend events but they say something very different at LNP meetings. For example, we have heard of: motions moved at LNP conferences to cap migration; motions apparently in the name of free speech to repeal anti-discrimination laws; Liberal federal backbenchers saying that Australia should pay jobless migrants to leave Australia; Senator Jacinta Price’s disgraceful comments about Indian Australians; and the probably soon-to-be federal leader of the LNP Andrew Hastie most appallingly blaming all of the country’s problems on immigration, saying high immigration rates make Australians feel like strangers in their own country.

Mr Lister interjected.

Mr MARTIN: That language is pretty important. That is not new language. I am not sure if members here know, but that language comes from Enoch Powell, a famous ultranationalist—some would say fascist—who said that people in the UK in the sixties felt like they were strangers in their own country. It is appalling language from someone who is probably going to be the leader of the LNP. I am proud to be part of a party that will always stand up for our multicultural communities and put One Nation last.

Mr Lister interjected.

Mr MARTIN: We will always put One Nation last. We will not do deals with One Nation. I am calling on the LNP at the by-election in Hinchinbrook—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Members, direct your comments through the chair.

Mr MARTIN:—if they really care about community cohesion, to put One Nation last. Stand up today and rule out a deal with One Nation. They have come in here and said they care about multiculturalism. They said they care about multicultural communities. Put One Nation last!