



Speech By
Margaret Nightingale

MEMBER FOR INALA

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MOTION

Multicultural Communities

 **Mrs NIGHTINGALE** (Inala—ALP) (4.44 pm): The member for Whitsunday called on me to respond, banging on about weak women on this side. There have been many times—as a former teacher—I have wanted to provide a dictionary for those on the other side of the room so that they understand the meaning of some of the words they flap about. I think the honourable member who has just spoken has shown that he clearly does not understand what some words mean. ‘Weak’ is what is on display in front of us every single day—that is, a Premier who refused to condemn the very discriminatory anti-immigration protests that took place across our state on 31 August.

One of the reasons the minister called on me, as the member for Inala, to speak out is that she knows I represent a multicultural electorate, but that is all she knows about Inala. If the LNP knew anything about Inala they would know that you do not put One Nation ahead of anybody else. You put them last. Twice last year I saw in my community the LNP putting One Nation ahead of other candidates, making deals with them—in a community that suffered at the hands of One Nation and at the hands of racist rhetoric. They were scared. They were frightened. Back when I was a teenager and a young person, I remember seeing rotten food thrown at people who were being subjected to victimisation and assault as a result of One Nation. The LNP failed to do anything about it. They failed to stand up against that kind of rhetoric. Here today it is clear that is all they know about my community because they will continue to do deals with One Nation.

There is a reason the people in my electorate and across the state were scared about those anti-immigration protests. They have seen it play out before. They have seen that this kind of rhetoric leads to the kind of violence that those in my community have experienced. I will not stand for it and Labor does not stand for it. We are the ones who have strengthened anti-vilification laws. We have called that out. We have said that our migrant communities need to be protected from the words of others. Those on that side of the room would have you believe otherwise. Again, they need a dictionary to fully understand what some of these things mean. The Minister for Multiculturalism can stand up and yet not take an opportunity to call out these protests. I hope that next time she is in my community, at the many events that she turns up to, she has the courage to stand up and to call it out—not just to take a photo but to turn up and show up. ‘Show up’ means show that you care.