

STABBING ATTACKS — NEW SOUTH WALES

Statement by Leader of the House

HON SUE ELLERY (South Metropolitan — Leader of the House) [1.03 pm]: This week, as Western Australians, we grieve with the nation. Together, we mourn the horrific massacre of six innocent people at a Bondi Junction shopping centre last Saturday and the attack last night during a mass in western Sydney, and we stand with the people of Sydney, our fellow Australians, who have had this dreadful tragedy inflicted upon their city. We remember the six victims, and our thoughts are with those who were injured. In doing so, we remember they are someone's family member, someone's friend, someone's colleague, someone's neighbour—just innocent people going about their business on a Saturday afternoon or attending a church service in their local community.

To the friends and family of those victims whose lives have been changed forever, to say that our hearts go out to you simply does not fully convey enough comfort to salve the grief you would be feeling right now. No words could possibly do that. What we can say is that the community, all of Australia, is here for you in the coming weeks, months and beyond. We are all touched by the sorrow, anger and uncertainty this tragedy has caused. Members, in expressing our deepest condolences on behalf of Western Australia, I also extend our gratitude to the first responders. The brave and selfless acts of many people surely prevented further loss of life. Members and President, we stand with New South Wales.

The PRESIDENT: Members, noting the statement by the Leader of the House, I now invite you to stand for a minute's silence as a mark of respect.

[Members and officers stood and observed a minute's silence.]