

BALI BOMBINGS, ANNIVERSARY

Personal Explanation

MRS C.L. EDWARDES (Kingsley) [2.21 pm]: I wish to report to the House on my visit to Bali at the weekend to attend the Bali memorial service organised by the Prime Minister and honouring the victims of the terrorist attack in Bali on 12 October 2002. Hon Ray Halligan, member of the Legislative Council for the North Metropolitan Region, also attended.

Speaker's Ruling

The SPEAKER: Personal explanations are, of course, an opportunity for a member basically to correct an incorrect statement or the like. If something in the statement the member is about to read reflects the normal process of personal explanations, the member may continue. Perhaps the member might look at another means of making a statement about her visit to Bali.

Mrs C.L. EDWARDES: I had requested that arrangements be made with the Government whereby I could make such a statement to the House. It was suggested that a personal explanation might be the appropriate way. My statement does not contain a correction. Because I believe it is appropriate and important, I would be pleased if the Leader of the House were able to allow this to occur with the consent of the House at this time.

The SPEAKER: I am sure that the Leader of the House and the manager of opposition business can discuss whether the House should agree to suspend standing orders at some stage to allow the member to make a statement. Unfortunately, I do not think that it is the subject of a personal explanation.

Standing Orders Suspension

MR R.F. JOHNSON (Hillarys) [2.22 pm]: I move without notice -

That so much of the standing orders be suspended as is necessary to enable the member for Kingsley to make a statement concerning her visit to Bali to commemorate the anniversary of the terrorist attack in Bali on 12 October 2002.

It is very important for the House to hear first hand from the member for Kingsley who attended the memorial service. It will not take up much time. I assume that the Leader of the House will agree to this procedure rather than a personal explanation.

MR J.C. KOBELKE (Nollamara - Leader of the House) [2.23 pm]: Given the importance of the issue, the Government will agree to suspend standing orders, but it does not do justice to this very important anniversary that the Opposition did not have the good grace to approach the Leader of the House earlier to suggest the matter. However, given that the matter is treated very seriously by the Government and the general community, we will accede to the request for the suspension of standing orders.

Question put and passed with an absolute majority.

Statement by Member for Kingsley

MRS C.L. EDWARDES (Kingsley) [2.24 pm]: I wish to report to the House on my visit to Bali at the weekend to attend the Bali memorial service organised by the Prime Minister and honouring the victims of the terrorist attack in Bali on 12 October 2002. Hon Ray Halligan, member of the Legislative Council for the North Metropolitan Region, also attended. The Bali bombings were a tragedy that claimed the lives of 202 people from 22 countries, injured scores of others and impacted upon still hundreds more. In all, 88 Australians - 16 Western Australians - perished in an event that has changed the life of every Australian forever. Among those 16 Western Australians killed were seven members of the Kingsley Football Club. There were 13 survivors, two of whom were seriously injured. The families of those involved were left to cope with the aftermath of the tragic loss of their loved ones, their personal pain, both physical and mental, the loss of jobs and businesses and the daily haunting of their memories.

The memorial service was hosted by the Prime Minister, Hon John Howard MP, at the Garuda Wisnu Kencana Cultural Centre at Jimbaran, Bali. Mrs Janette Howard and the Leader of the federal Opposition, the Hon Simon Crean, and his wife, Carole, also attended. It was an outdoor venue with a Balinese ambience located about 20 to 30 minutes south of Kuta. The memorial was a fitting opportunity for all concerned, including many Balinese, to honour family members and friends and to achieve another step towards healing. It was an opportunity for every individual affected by the tragedy to realise and appreciate that he or she was part of a much bigger picture, and that no-one was alone. A significant number of Kingsley Football Club survivors and families from my electorate travelled to Bali to participate in the memorial service and the purpose of my visit was to add my support. Families were invited to visit other places of special significance and memory. These include the Sanglah Hospital, where the Prime Minister unveiled a plaque for the new \$4.5 million care and burns centre

being built with the assistance of the Australian Government; the site of the new \$3 million Australia-Bali memorial eye centre, also part of the Australian Government's assistance package, where the Prime Minister unveiled a separate plaque; the morgue; the consulate memorial garden; and the Jalan Legian memorial at the site of the Sari Club and Paddy's Bar. In all, Australian Government assistance totals \$10.5 million. Apart from that mentioned above, there is an amount of \$3 million for health and medical scholarships. The Bali provincial Government completed stage 1 of the Jalan Legian memorial in time for the anniversary date. Stage 1 includes a paved area, flagpole and a semi-circular wall listing the names of all the Bali victims by country. Many tributes, flowers and pebbles were placed at this site and at the Sari Club site.

The memorial service was conducted with great dignity and feeling and appreciated by all who attended, with Australians sitting alongside Balinese and people of many other nationalities, sharing a unique moment in history. In the amazing setting of the cultural centre - an old quarry - it was an incredible experience for all. Many floral tributes were laid in the pond. Although there was obvious grief and pain, the first anniversary enabled all those who had made the trip and all those who attended the service at Kings Park to appreciate the extent of support and caring around them. For some, it was the first step to healing; for others it provided some relief; and for some of the young siblings it was a chance to share their common bond. For many it was as though this occasion was a signal to move on to the next stage - to pay their respects to those who had lost their lives so tragically, and who would never be forgotten. On 12 and 13 October, two further vigils were conducted at the Jalan Legian memorial site, from 3.00 to 5.00 pm and from 11.00 pm to 1.00 am.

As part of the lead-up to the memorial service, the Kuta Karnival was conducted from 11 September to 12 October. Events included a surfing competition, live bands, a street parade and a beach party. It is now planned as an annual event. The final event of the Kuta Karnival was a spiritual ceremony on Kuta Beach from 5.00 pm until sunset on 12 October. It was an opportunity for quiet reflection, prayers and remembrance of loved ones. Candles, flowers and incense were provided to be laid in the ocean. Thousands of people, including the Prime Minister, attended this spiritual ceremony, which ended with young people on surfboards forming a circle out on the waves at sunset, as part of a surfers' burial ceremony. Yesterday, the Balinese family support groups organised an international family day for all families, where small gifts were exchanged. On Saturday, 11 October the Bali nines Australian rules football competition was held in Kuta. Jason McCartney played with the local Bali Geckoes football club, which made it to the grand final. The games started at 8.30 am, with the grand final at 4.30 pm. The Kingsley boys and some very courageous dads played in the morning. At the football match, there was laughter, good fun, some pain and the usual jocularly that goes with a football match. Above all, it was a demonstration of the sort of mateship that has been experienced by members of the Kingsley Football Club. The Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition and their wives also attended with many expatriates, the business community and visitors. The Prime Minister presented the trophies, and Jason McCartney presented a cheque for \$10 000 to the Bali widows fund.

The sympathy of the Balinese people was as warm, sensitive and genuine as it was widespread, from taxi drivers to shopkeepers and locals just walking along the streets. Somehow they identified the Australians and were quick to extend the hand of friendship at a time when it was so desperately needed and so readily accepted. They also expressed their appreciation for the support, both financial and physical, that Australia gave them. It was also an opportunity for all those who were helped by local volunteers a year ago to revisit the hospital where they were treated for horrific burns, and where shrapnel was extracted from their eyes and bodies, to say thank you to those who may well have saved their lives. Many volunteers also travelled back to Bali for the memorial service and met with the survivors to share an experience that has created lifelong friendships. The occasion underlined the need to work together for a world without terror, so that we can all live in peace and future generations can live in harmony. At the same time it underlined the importance of demonstrating that innocent people will not be broken by such despicable acts, but that such acts will strengthen their resolve against terrorists.

As members of Parliament we all confront a range of issues, both good and bad, but I can honestly say that no other issue has caused me so much anguish and heartache. I have shared the tears and the laughter as well as the anger and frustration that have been felt by many individuals and families who were affected by the tragedy. My family, the members of the Kingsley Amateur Football Club and their families, friends and carers and my electorate have all become one big family. We have all felt the hurt and the joy at each new step. I have previously taken the opportunity to thank many individuals, and to them I again say thank you. The many volunteer staff of many organisations have helped me and the wonderful staff of my office to support and care for the families, friends and survivors of the Kingsley Amateur Football Club over the past 12 months, and not the least of which the first three months. In those first three months my office resembled a crisis care centre.

The date of 12 October 2002 and the series of events that followed have reached everyone's lives. They have changed my life as they have changed the lives of others. We now view things differently. We enjoy life just that little bit more, love our families a whole lot more and care for our fellow man more. We can be proud of the

manner in which everyone associated with the Kingsley Amateur Football Club has responded to the incredible challenge posed by this tragedy. The members of the club and their families have been subject to a lot of scrutiny. Everyone needs to remember that they are all suffering from grief, anger and sadness. Their lives may have changed forever, but the courage that all have shown in the past 12 months has now been cemented by this latest chapter in their lives, just as it will have been for all other survivors and their relatives and friends throughout the world. I pay tribute to the survivors of the Bali tragedy, to the families and friends who lost a loved one and to those who were injured. No-one will ever fully understand their pain, both physical and emotional, or their courage and fortitude, but we can and do acknowledge it. They are, and will remain, an inspiration to us all.