



COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATEMENTS ON INDULGENCE
10th Anniversary of the Bali Bombings
SPEECH

Thursday, 11 October 2012

BY AUTHORITY OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Questioner
Speaker Abbott, Tony, MP

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Mr ABBOTT (Warringah—Leader of the Opposition) (14:02): I join the Prime Minister in marking tomorrow's anniversary, because, for Australians, 12 October 2002 is a date that will always live in infamy. Eighty-eight Australians died; 202 people were killed in total. The places targeted were picked precisely because they were places frequented by Australians, so this was an attack on Australia. But it was more than that; it was an attack on civilisation. To our credit as a people, we did not lash out in fury at another country or at a particular religion. We worked with Indonesia to bring the perpetrators to justice. We will always be grateful to Indonesia and its people for doing so.

Our country was at its best in the aftermath of the Bali bombings. Of those caught up in the bombings, many were traumatised and all were changed, but not all for the worse. Some have subsequently been involved in magnificent humanitarian work, such as Peter Hughes and David and Clair Marsh.

I look forward to more help in the future for all the victims of terrorism. I also look forward to standing with the Prime Minister in Bali tomorrow to demonstrate our solidarity as Australians and to say to our country's enemies: you can hurt us but you can't break us.