

MICHELLE, BELLA AND RUA PETERSEN — TRIBUTE

Statement by Member for Swan Hills

MS J.J. SHAW (Swan Hills) [12.50 pm]: On 22 July, the Ellenbrook community came together to remember Michelle Petersen and her children, Bella and Rua—three people who shone love and warmth into so many lives. I was humbled to be asked to speak on the family’s behalf. I would like to thank the police and ambulance first responders who attended the family home, and the state and local government workers and community organisations who gave so much assistance. Thanks also to the friends, sporting, community and church groups who played such an important role in Michelle, Bella and Rua’s lives. The teachers, staff and chaplains at Ellenbrook Secondary College and Malvern Springs Primary Schools also provided incredible support and the memorial services held at both schools were very touching. For as long as we have existed, there has been tragedy and pain. For as long as we continue to, there will be grief and loss. But, if nothing else, the way our community came together in response to these tragic events shows us that none of us need face these things alone. When we could so easily have fallen into despair, our community’s response shone a light onto the things that draw us together—the things that really matter. Let the legacy of this tragedy be our resolve to show kindness and compassion towards one another and strengthen our community together.