

27/11/25

ADJOURNMENT SPEECH

Mr GUYULA (Mulka): Mr Acting Deputy Speaker, firstly, I put my dissent on the record that I did not support the Alcohol Harm Reduction Amendment Bill that passed earlier tonight. I do not support it on urgency, and I do not support these approaches without the government putting in place proper support to address the underlying issues. This is not happening.

I say merry Christmas to you and all who are here, working hard with the efforts that many people have contributed during 2025.

In my electorate, I thank the elders, leaders and community members who continue to work hard for the people of our communities, Yolngu and balanda. We are fighting to bring real changes to the current system that does not support our law, culture and way. We have big problems with the children who are struggling and lost to drugs, alcohol and gambling. It is a system that will not let us be the decision-makers for our people.

Through all the frustrations, pain and hurt, there are people who get up early in the morning and do their best for our lives, our people and our culture. There are many successful stories. I have already attended the CDU graduation in Nhulunbuy with my people who are achieving their training. I also look forward to attending school award ceremonies and graduations next year, when we will see some of the fantastic stories of Yolngu children in two-way education, bilingual schools and balanda children finding pathways, and the teachers who have helped them to achieve across our communities.

We have teachers, nurses, doctors, health workers, rangers, businesspeople, police, support workers, community development workers, Yolngu and balanda working hard to uplift and care for all people who live in the Mulka electorate on Yolngu country.

This year, many people in the parliament listened very respectfully while I explained Yolngu law, but it is not enough just to listen. The laws and the discussions in this Chamber need to shift greatly if we are to improve the lives for all people in the Northern Territory.

I wish everyone a peaceful, safe Christmas and a happy New Year. It is a time to spend with family and loved ones. It is also a time to reflect and think about how we can change and work together to make things better for the NT.

This text is copied directly from Hansard. At the time of copying the text may have been in draft form and may contain errors.

I would also like to thank my wife, my family and those who have been standing behind me, supporting me to stand where I could put message here into the Chamber so that we all understand each other in a way that we will work together towards making it a life that we walk together and help one another to do the heavy lifting in this Chamber.

I have been very fortunate to be in here to call out to the chamber and the parliament. We are still not being a part of who we need to be in the community, this town and in Arnhem land. Balanda and Yolngu working together so that we achieve something towards a better life and a brighter future for our families, children and everyone that we want to lead a better life for.

Merry Christmas all and happy new year, I will see you next year.

Source: <https://hdl.handle.net/10070/1021125>