

**Speech by Senator Steve Fielding  
Family First Senator for Victoria**

**Condolence motion – Bali**

**4 October 2005**

On behalf of the Family First Party I would like to offer my condolences to the families of those Australians who were killed in the terrorist attack in Bali on the weekend, as well as to the families of the other victims from Indonesia and other countries.

At these times it is difficult to fully express our horror at such events.

The bomb blasts in Bali are of special concern to us in Australia as four of our fellow Australians were killed, and many more injured. Three Australians are still on the critical list in hospital.

These people were ordinary Australians going on a holiday. We can all relate to that. We've all been on family holidays at the beach. We've all enjoyed warmth and relaxation on the sand and special meals out. We all like to escape the pressures of our work and daily life and have a couple of week's break. It's a chance to spend precious time with our partners, our children, perhaps other relatives and friends – and of course these times provide us with cherished memories. I was at the beach just last week for a holiday with my family and am grateful for the opportunity.

It is that clash between a very ordinary and familiar scene of a family beach holiday and the indiscriminate violence of bombs which shocks us all.

And following that initial shock, when we get a chance to reflect on those horrific events, I think we also find it very disturbing that these bombs were very deliberate, planned and executed killings, carried out apparently by suicide bombers. I think it is very difficult for us as Australians, in our peaceful part of the world, to understand how someone could carry out such a lethal attack on fellow human beings. It is hard to understand a terrorist thinking such an outrage was so important they would commit suicide as part of that violence.

Yes, we have seen similar horrific events before on our TV screens in New York, in Baghdad, in Madrid, in London, in Jakarta and of course in Bali in 2002. But the high value and dignity we attach to the lives of our fellow human beings means that such events still have the power to shock, and I hope we never lose that feeling of horror at such events.

Sadly overseas travel has become more dangerous in some areas because of the threat of terrorism. There is a heavy duty on the Federal Government to produce timely and accurate travel advice. It is also important for travellers to consider that travel information very seriously.

Family First condemns acts of terrorism and supports the Government's efforts, assisting the Indonesian authorities, to find the perpetrators.

I know Australians will keep those people who were victims of this outrage, and their families, in their thoughts and prayers. I know too they will be reaching out to support and comfort the survivors who have to live with the injuries and the memories from this most vicious, ugly and senseless slaughter.