



COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**PERSONAL EXPLANATIONS**

**SPEECH**

**Thursday, 17 September 2009**

BY AUTHORITY OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

---

## SPEECH

<b>Date</b> Thursday, 17 September 2009	<b>Source</b> House
<b>Page</b> 9980	<b>Proof</b> No
<b>Questioner</b>	<b>Responder</b>
<b>Speaker</b> Robert, Stuart, MP	<b>Question No.</b>

---

**Mr ROBERT** (Fadden) (4.05 pm)—Mr Speaker, I wish to make a personal explanation.

**The SPEAKER**—Does the honourable member claim to have been misrepresented?

**Mr ROBERT**—Yes.

**The SPEAKER**—Please proceed.

**Mr ROBERT**—In a speech on the Australian citizenship amendment bill I made the statement that I believe in a thing called patriotism and I love my nation. I have served overseas in uniform. I have stood on a front line, peacekeeping for my nation. I believe in the integrity of what my nation stands for and I will not stand in this hallowed place, in parliament, and see citizenship sold out for a few gold medals. The Parliamentary Secretary for Multicultural Affairs and Settlement Services then said in his speech after mine:

... the last three from the members for Fadden, Kalgoorlie and Cook were very wide ranging indeed. We heard one person boasting about his war record ...

Mr Speaker, I do not have a war record. There is only one member in this House who has a war record—that is the member for Eden-Monaro—but I do have an operational service record. I, and the member for Eden-Monaro and the member for Cowan, take our responsibilities as former serving defence personnel seriously in representing defence personnel in this place. I do accept that the Parliamentary Secretary did withdraw and I thank him for that.