



Speech by

# Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

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Hansard 7 December 1999

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

### Multiculturalism

**Hon. P. D. BEATTIE** (Brisbane Central— ALP) (Premier) (9.38 a.m.), by leave: Members of this House would know of my Government's commitment to multiculturalism. They would also know that I am happy to take every opportunity to celebrate and promote our rich and diverse culture. That is something we did this morning with the Minister for Primary Industries, Henry Palaszcuk, and my Parliamentary Secretary, Gordon Nuttall.

Earlier this morning at a special breakfast at Parliament House I was pleased to launch a new book titled *A Fair Go—Portraits of the Australian Dream*. This book marks 50 years of Australian citizenship, sharing the experiences of immigrants who made new lives for themselves in Australia through persistence, determination and sheer hard work. Some suffered personal tragedies, but that has not prevented them from making a contribution to this country. Their participation in Australian society has helped to open our eyes to the rest of the world and turn us into a confident multicultural community.

The Queenslanders included in this book have shown what can be achieved when the human spirit is encouraged by the good old Australian fair go. There are five of them, each contributing in their own way. They are: Con Sciacca, in politics—some honourable members may have heard of him; Sarina Russo, in education—a very proud Queenslander who has made significant advances in education and who, the other day, won a significant Federal Government contract, for which I congratulate her; Joseph Saragossi, in business; Agnes Whiten, in metallurgy and women's affairs; and Magda Wollner, in restaurants.

My Government recognises the importance of encouraging multiculturalism in this State. Multiculturalism allows each of us to acknowledge where we come from. It also enriches our society with the cultures and traditions of other nations and it helps us to pursue valuable business and economic opportunities overseas. Each of the people featured in the book *A Fair Go—Portraits of the Australian Dream* have made significant contributions. I congratulate them all on helping to build Australia and Queensland into the great nation and State they are today. I congratulate also Steven Rich and Focus Publishing for producing a definitive guide to modern Australia. I table a copy of the book for the information of all honourable members.

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