



Speech by

GORDON NUTTALL

MEMBER FOR SANDGATE

Hansard 2 March 2000

MULTICULTURAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Mr NUTTALL (Sandgate—ALP) (10.17 a.m.): I inform honourable members of the Multicultural Assistance Program, which was finalised in December of last year. Under this program, the Government allocates grants totalling \$2.15m to projects and strategies which strengthen community relations and increase social harmony and cohesion through the promotion of multiculturalism. The bulk of these funds went to the second stage of the Local Area Multicultural Partnership Program, better known as LAMP. Last financial year, six councils were funded to employ a worker whose task it is to develop community relations initiatives in the local area of the council. This year, a further eight such grants were allocated. A total of 14 councils across the whole of Queensland will be able to conduct such community relations programs in partnership with the State Government. As a result, it is hoped that there will be a better recognition and more productive use of our State's cultural diversity.

Other grants distributed among 67 projects include the following components: \$130,000 for community development projects, for example, projects that support the activities of community organisations; \$300,000 for community relations projects to support multicultural events such as festivals, seminars, workshops, conferences and other events that promote and advance multiculturalism in Queensland; and \$150,000 for initiatives flowing from the Year of Older Persons that address the needs of older people from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds.

I emphasise that a total of 237 applications were received worth approximately \$2.5m. A committee was established to assess the grant applications in order to ensure the absolute fairness and transparency of grant applications. Clearly, more applications are unsuccessful than those which are funded. I am sorry for the disappointment that this may cause. However, it is important to recognise the effort of all those who submit projects, thereby demonstrating their commitment to multiculturalism.

Time expired.
