



Speech by

**JULIE ATTWOOD**

**MEMBER FOR MOUNT OMMANEY**

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Hansard 14 November 2000

**INDIGENOUS ART AND CRAFT SHOW AND CULTURAL FESTIVAL; YOUTH ARTS FESTIVAL**

**Mrs ATTWOOD** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (1.54 a.m.): I am always happy to be invited to the Indigenous Art and Craft Show and Cultural Festival at the Milpera State High School. This event has become an annual joint venture between Milpera State High School and the Benanawa Community Development Association and it is funded by the Brisbane City Council cultural development grant system. It was great to see such a good local turnout for the opening on Friday night, 27 October. There were many magnificent pieces of Aboriginal artwork displayed, which truly were representative of some of the talent in the Aboriginal community. The arts and crafts were put up for sale to the general public. On the Saturday there were many cultural events on the agenda. These included didgeridoo decorating, basket weaving, face painting, traditional earth oven cooking and performances by Torres Strait Islander dancers, Malu Kiwai and Acacia Ridge Murri School Dancers, and Aboriginal storytelling and singing.

It is important in this changing society that cultures and traditions are maintained. It is equally important that people in the Aboriginal community are able to publicly display their talent and rich culture. There were many adults and children who were fascinated by the activities presented at this festival. I thank the organisers from Milpera State High School and Benanawa for allowing this event to materialise.

Sometimes we tend to get too involved in everyday living to stop and appreciate this land we live in and its mysterious past. The Aboriginal people have been making the most of Australia's natural resources for centuries and have a lot to tell us about how it should be treated and appreciated. Let us not forget our history when we are making decisions about our future.

The Mount Ommaney electorate is full of people who are concerned about the future of our children. A few years ago an idea was conceived about generating an avenue through which local youth could express their talents and skills. This idea came from a group of very community-minded people living in my electorate of Mount Ommaney. It was the brainchild of the Rotary Club of Sumner Park—a group of very busy businesspeople who get together for the good of the local community. Their objective was to tap into the vast array of talent within our local schools and promote it to the local community.

All schools endeavour to bring out the best in their children, but unless one is a parent or a teacher how does one know the achievements of a particular school? The Rotary Club of Sumner Park, through a lot of hard work and commitment, organises the Youth Arts Festival in these suburbs every year. Last year it was held at St Aidan's School and this year it was held at the Darra-Jindalee Catholic School oval in Jindalee as part of its spring fair.

I continue to be impressed by the dedication and commitment of this club, which successfully brings out the best in our young people. Art, dance and music were featured on stage at the oval at Jindalee with bright-coloured costumes, performers smiling brightly and young children enjoying themselves immensely while the community looked on. Hundreds of people passed through the spring fair and witnessed the talent of our local kids. Grandparents were beaming and pointing out their grandchildren on stage.

Altogether it was a great day, which included TAJA, the River City Jazz Band and regular appearances from Michael and Patrick Ellwood. I give congratulations to the Darra-Jindalee Catholic School on hosting the spring fair and to the Rotary Club of Sumner Park for their perseverance, commitment and determination to make the Rotary Youth Arts Festival an ongoing success.