



Speech by

Mr D. BRISKEY

MEMBER FOR CLEVELAND

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HINDUSTANI LANGUAGE SCHOOL

Mr BRISKEY (Cleveland—ALP) (10.28 a.m.): Happy Daffodil Day. I recently had the great pleasure of attending the 10th anniversary celebrations of the Hindustani Language School. Founded from a vision of cultural integration and diversity, the primary objective of the school is to teach communicative Hindi language and to maintain Indian culture in Australia.

The school commenced in 1992 and has progressed in leaps and bounds since then. At that time the school had 27 students and operated from one centre at Boondall. Ten years down the track the school has expanded and operates from three centres: at Boondall, Rochedale and Camira. The average number of students per year is now 100.

The success of the school is testament to the dedication of parents and trained teachers who work in a voluntary capacity to ensure that those who wish to learn the Hindi language and culture do so free of charge. The service is available to anyone with an interest in learning the Hindi language and culture. The curriculum is accepted by Education Queensland and by the community language element of the federal government. Since acceptance of the curriculum, Hindi can now be taught in mainstream schools as a language subject, provided there are sufficient numbers of students wanting to participate.

The program is not aligned to any particular religion. In fact, the background to every major religion is taught to ensure students learn to understand and respect the traditions and cultures of people from all around the world. In addition to language and culture tuition, the school provides programs in leadership and personal development, public speaking and stage presentations. The marvellous work being carried out by the Hindustani Language School is an example of the many ways the community and the government engage to promote positive community harmony and cultural diversity. I take this opportunity to thank the school, the parents and the volunteers on reaching the milestone of 10 years of operation.
