



Speech by

Mr D. BRISKEY

MEMBER FOR CLEVELAND

Hansard 27 March 2003

HARMONY DAY

Mr BRISKEY (Cleveland—ALP) (10.21 a.m.): Last Friday was Harmony Day—a day for celebrating and honouring our differences, identifying the common ground and creating competitive advantage through our diversity. The day was a huge success right across the state. However, it was unfortunate that as we celebrated Harmony Day our troops were engaged in conflict in Iraq. I am confident that all members would join me in wishing our troops well and a safe return home soon.

Honourable members: Hear, hear!

Mr BRISKEY: As members would be aware, Harmony Day aims to encourage Australians to think about our community's success as a multicultural society, to recommit to continuing respect, goodwill and understanding between Australians of all backgrounds and to take a stand against racism, prejudice and intolerance. The theme for Harmony Day 2003 was 'You plus me equals us'—such a simple statement, yet it holds great significance.

While the government has a large role to play in facilitating harmony within our communities, achieving harmony demands a partnership with the community. I take this opportunity to thank those in the community who work hard to foster multiculturalism and combat racism in our community. The Queensland government also plays an important role in fostering multiculturalism and combating racism. The Multicultural Queensland policy sets out the strategies and actions the government is committed to taking to combat racism and promote harmony within our society.

Multiculturalism is about continuing the development of one cohesive harmonious society from Queensland's diversity. It encourages everyone to express, share and value one another's cultural heritage and aims at ensuring that everybody has equality of opportunity to benefit from and contribute to all aspects of life without prejudice or discrimination. The Queensland government has major funding initiatives aimed at promoting multiculturalism. These include the Local Area Multicultural Partnership Program and the Multicultural Assistance Program.

Time expired.