



Speech by

**Mr D. BRISKEY**

**MEMBER FOR CLEVELAND**

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Hansard 12 November 2003

#### **CULTURAL DIVERSITY**

**Mr BRISKEY** (Cleveland—ALP) (10.22 a.m.): The people of Queensland are as diverse as our landscape. With 17 per cent of us born overseas, we come from over 150 different countries, we subscribe to more than 40 religions and just over seven per cent of us speak a language other than English at home. Diversity is our strength, and our people are our greatest asset. In business, politics, sport and the arts, our cultural diversity has paved the way for many great achievements.

Following the release of the 1996 census data, a suite of publications known as the *Atlas of Australian People* was produced. The atlas presents statistical information about ethnic communities in Australia as well as statistical profiles on each state and territory. The atlas proved to be a very successful reference document. Following the release of the 2001 census data, the Ministerial Council on Immigration and Multicultural Affairs endorsed a similar suite of publications to be produced which collate information about ethnic communities by local government area in each state and territory of Australia. The result of this is this wonderful document called *People of Queensland*, which provides an outstanding statistical profile of our population and an ideal research and reference tool. The publication contains comprehensive statistical profiles showing the birthplace, religion, languages and ancestries of all Queenslanders.

The Beattie government remains committed to the principles of access, participation and cohesion through our multicultural Queensland policy. Under the policy, the government recognises Queensland is and will remain a culturally diverse society and affirms multiculturalism as the best way to manage this cultural diversity. I commend the *People of Queensland* publication to the people of Queensland and anyone who is interested in the cultural demography of the state of Queensland.