



Speech by

DESLEY SCOTT

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

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LOGAN SUDANESE COMMUNITY, CITIZENSHIP CEREMONY

Mrs DESLEY SCOTT (Woodridge—ALP) (10.24 a.m.): On Friday, 31 October, as part of Refugee Week, Logan City held a very moving, joyous citizenship ceremony. Our community has welcomed many members of the Sudanese community who have come to Australia on our refugee program. Many of these people have lived for years in refugee camps and require considerable support to settle into life in Australia.

Access Incorporated in Logan City is the organisation that takes the primary responsibility for our refugee program. It was members of Access Incorporated who had the wonderful idea of organising the citizenship ceremony held at the Kingston Butter Factory. All who attended commented that it was the most enjoyable citizenship ceremony that they had ever attended.

The Sudanese are a very gentle people with an infectious, happy disposition. Having 17 candidates for citizenship from one ethnic group afforded a unique opportunity to show their great joy and exhilaration through dance and music. It was just such a wonderful, colourful celebration. The MC for the ceremony was Mr Gary Kellar, the CEO of the Logan City Council. At the ceremony many of Logan's community leaders spoke of the warmth of feeling towards our Sudanese. A number of children accompanied their parents onto the stage and their sheer delight at becoming Australian citizens beamed from their faces. No smile is more infectious than from these wonderful people.

A number of those young people are now engaged in study. My most moving recollection was at an Anzac Day ceremony at Woodridge High School when a young Sudanese student told his story. I am very proud of my Logan community, who are the most caring people I know.