



Speech by

Hon. LIDDY CLARK

MEMBER FOR CLAYFIELD

Hansard 28 April 2004

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Imparja Cup; Indigenous Cricket

Hon. E. A. CLARK (Clayfield—ALP) (Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy) (9.48 a.m.): On the main staircase of this building are two trophies. The first of these is the Imparja Cup—Australia's foremost indigenous cricket award. This is not a trophy that has been easily won. This year, for the first time, Queensland has an official indigenous cricket team. The Queensland State Indigenous XI boasts 12 talented players who come from around the state. Some of them are now playing county cricket in England. The players hail from Thursday Island, Innisfail, Cairns, Townsville, Woorabinda, Hervey Bay, Charleville, the Sunshine Coast and Brisbane.

We farewelled the team to its first Imparja Cup in Alice Springs in late February, and by March it was back home with the goods. The Imparja Cup is the largest indigenous cricket tournament in the country, boasting teams from every state and territory. In what was a great moment for Queensland, our team not only beat stiff competition to take the cup but won the team spirit award—and all of this was achieved in its inaugural year. The team spirit award is the second cup which now stands on the staircase of Parliament House. Late last week the Deputy Premier and Minister for Sport, the Hon. Terry Mackenroth, and myself were handed the Imparja Cup and the Team Spirit Cup to display here at Parliament House for the next two weeks. As ATSIC Commissioner Robbie Williams said—

For the first time since 1868, when the first ever cricket team, who were all Aboriginal players, went to England, Indigenous cricket is no longer out of sight and out of mind, as it has been for more than 130 years.

I would like to say that this is an occasion for great celebration. Once again, Queensland has shown itself not only a master of sport but also as a master of sportsmanship. Here is something we can all be proud of.

I am also proud that the Beattie government, through the Department of Sport and Recreation, helped fund the Queensland State Indigenous XI by establishing an Indigenous Cricket Advisory Board Committee. I also acknowledge Queensland Cricket for its support. I urge all Queenslanders to make the trip to Parliament House to take a look at the trophies which are beautifully placed in the centre of the staircase—thankyou, Mr Speaker, for that—which mark this historic occasion. I now want to name the cricketers who made this possible: Captain Barry Weare from Cairns; Damian Watts from Charleville who plays for Toowoomba; Mount Isa all-rounder Arthur Isles; South Brisbane's Kieran Gibbs; Brisbane's Dean Morrison, who is a constituent of mine; Damien Budd from the Sunshine Coast; Brisbane's Keith Charles; Hervey Bay's Joe Marsh; Brett Smith from Innisfail; Townsville's Martin Rush; Woorabinda's Aaron Holt; Chris Mosby from Thursday Island; and coaches Rockhampton's Jason Smith and Queensland Cricket's Nev Paulsen.