



Speech by
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MEMBER FOR CAPALABA

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REDLANDS EASTER FAMILY FESTIVAL

Mr CHOI (Capalaba—ALP) (6.21 p.m.): The Redlands Easter Family Festival, which is held annually on Easter Monday, has now been in operation for several years. This year it was estimated that over 20,000 members of the community attended the festival, which is presented to the public absolutely free of charge. It is the only festival in this country that I am aware of that offers families in the community the opportunity to spend quality time together totally free of charge. Everything, including food and drinks, rides, presentations, face painting, performances and lots more, was offered to the public at no expense. This allowed families from all walks of life to socialise and share in the festivities which mark this significant occasion.

Easter is a time for giving and for reflecting on the sacrifices Christ made. This is strongly represented at the Redlands Easter Family Festival. The event is the second largest community event held each year in Redlands. It is organised by the combined churches of Redlands, representing over 40 churches of all denominations within the Redlands shire.

With the help of hundreds of volunteers, the combined churches provide free food, drinks, amusement rides and entertainment, in turn creating a great day out for the family. Families enjoy a fun day out in an alcohol and drug free environment. It was clearly a great avenue for bringing the Redlands community together for a joyful and peaceful major event. Due to the uniqueness of this event it has become very successful. Its excitement and generous concept highlights the importance of family in Queensland at this special time of year.

The family unit is under threat at the moment, mostly because of time or the lack of it. A so-called traditional family where the man goes to work and mum stays home to look after the children is now a rarity. A typical family these days more or less resembles a small army unit getting ready for a military operation each day—from getting up in the morning and waking up the troops to feeding them, clothing them and the mad rush to school on the way to work—not just the father but more often than not the mother. The evening is not much better with dinner, laundry and homework to be done. At the end of the day there is no time and no energy for quality family activities like playing, reading or even just talking to each other.

The Redlands Easter Family Festival provides a great opportunity for the family to spend a precious day together without putting any more financial stress on the family. Everyone involved with the festival should be highly commended for their contribution to the Redland shire community. I mention the chairman, Alan Lucas, and Pastor Glen Gray and his team for all their effort in putting this special day together. I wish them all future success.