



Speech by

Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard Friday, 26 May 2006

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

World Transplant Games

Hon. PD BEATTIE (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier) (8.44 am): I am pleased to announce that the Gold Coast has won the right to host the 2009 World Transplant Games. The event is expected to attract up to 4,000 competitors from more than 50 countries, contributing some 40,000 bed nights to Gold Coast hotels. I seek leave to incorporate the details into *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

Not only is this going to be another boost for Queensland's tourism economy, it will again raise the profile of the region as a leading international sporting destination.

Transplant Australia's bid for the international Games was supported by the Queensland Government, through Queensland Events, and the Gold Coast City Council.

Importantly, the 2009 Games will promote the very real need for organ and tissue donation worldwide, and equally here in Queensland.

With one patient on dialysis costing something like \$50,000 a year, the savings are enormous. There is however no price that can be placed on the gift of life and the quality of life for a recipient.

I look forward to welcoming the 2009 World Transplant Games to Queensland as a way to raise awareness for this very important cause, and the Queensland Government, through Queensland Health, will work closely with Transplant Australia to make these Games a great success.