



Speech by

Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard Friday, 26 May 2006

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Multicultural Festival

Hon. PD BEATTIE (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier) (8.45 am): It is with great pleasure that I announce that the 2006 Queensland Multicultural Festival will be held at the Roma Street Parklands on Sunday, 15 October. This festival is a very important part of our developing tolerance, understanding and multiculturalism for the future growth of Queensland. I seek leave to incorporate the details into *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

Performing will be rising star Lior, Australian singing sensations Vika and Linda, who have Tongan heritage, and international guest—Chinese musician, writer and master chef Guo Yue.

There will be classical artists, jazz, and world music, to the wonderful dances from the many cultures that make up Queensland.

Importantly, this celebration demonstrates just how rich Queensland's cultural heritage is.

As Nick Earls, our 2006 Multicultural Champion said this week when he received his award:

"We all belong here. Whether our history here is ancient or involves more recent migration, we all belong. And we can all make this a better richer place."

Nick is a fitting Multicultural Champion, and I am really pleased that he is going to lead a new program as part of the Festival which will explore the written word of different cultures.

As well as the big day on the 15th, the Festival program includes events for school students and ties in strongly to the curriculum across a range of disciplines.

Most of all, the 2006 Queensland Multicultural Festival will demonstrate this State's achievements in fostering an open, harmonious and culturally diverse community.

It will also celebrate the wonderful contribution of Queenslanders.