



Speech by

# Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard Thursday, 10 August 2006

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## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

### *Gatherings II*

**Hon. PD BEATTIE** (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier) (9.48 am): In 2001 I initiated the publication *Gatherings*, to promote and market both prominent and emerging Queensland Indigenous artists. My intention for the book was to create an official gift of state from the Queensland government and, as such, it has been enjoyed by distinguished recipients throughout the world.

Indigenous art is an expression of an ancient culture's interpretation of the world around us. *Gatherings II* includes works by 100 Queensland Indigenous artists and was funded by the Indigenous Business Development Group within the Department of State Development. I want to table a copy for the House and I urge members to read it. It shows how talented our Indigenous artists are.

*Tabled paper:* Publication titled 'Gatherings II—Contemporary Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art from Queensland Australia'.

I seek leave to have the details incorporated in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

Queensland Indigenous art has become more widely recognised and my Government strongly supports this international appeal. We have established the Queensland Indigenous Art Marketing and Export Agency to encourage and increase this attention. Many of our Indigenous artists now have national and international standing and are able to earn a living from the sale of their work. Being paid to do what you love is something we all aspire to, and my Government will continue to support more Indigenous artists to realise this dream.