



Speech by

Hon. Lindy Nelson-Carr

MEMBER FOR MUNDINGBURRA

Hansard Thursday, 22 February 2007

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Multicultural Affairs Queensland, Community Relations Partnership

Hon. LH NELSON-CARR (Mundingburra—ALP) (Minister for Environment and Multiculturalism) (10.02 am): The state government, through Multicultural Affairs Queensland, is embarking on an exciting partnership with the Queensland Roar Football Club. Tonight I will join club officials in announcing a three-year partnership—Queensland Roars against Racism—which is aimed at fostering community harmony and dealing with racism and discrimination. I am sure all members agree that racism is abhorrent and should never be tolerated.

Queensland Roar's coach, Frank Farina, and the footballers, who are positive role models from diverse backgrounds, will work with MAQ to impart antiracism messages to fans, schoolchildren and the community in general. The message will be that we are all part of the one community and are all valued, irrespective of where we come from. The state government is committed to building a cohesive society that accepts and respects cultural diversity.

Given the global insecurity as a result of terrorism, it is timely to send a message of acceptance and respect. What better way than via a partnership with one of the best teams in the Australian competition of the world game—perhaps the only sport truly representative of people from all corners of the globe.

This partnership is one of a range of state government projects that promote positive community relations and counter racism. Others include: the Queensland Multicultural Festival, which brings together people from all cultures to celebrate our differences and the things we share in common; the Premier's Multicultural Photographic Awards, which encourages entries that reflect our diverse state; and Queensland government funding of \$100,000 a year for three years to the Centre for Multicultural Pastoral Care to educate the community and research the issues associated with racism.

Multicultural Affairs Queensland is working on a community relations plan to consolidate all this work and more to ensure Queensland remains a friendly and welcoming place for all. The Beattie government values the enormous contribution people from ethnic communities have made to our state and acknowledges that multiculturalism has benefits for all Queenslanders.