



Speech by

Hon. Lindy Nelson-Carr

MEMBER FOR MUNDINGBURRA

Hansard Thursday, 24 May 2007

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Multicultural Assistance Program

Hon. LH NELSON-CARR (Mundingburra—ALP) (Minister for Environment and Multiculturalism) (9.57 am): The Beattie government takes great pride in celebrating cultural diversity in Queensland. One way in which we do this is through the Multicultural Assistance Program, also known as MAP, and it is part of the annual grants round. This week submissions will be called for the program. I would encourage members to spread the word in their communities. The government has committed \$730,000 to actively promote and celebrate multiculturalism at a local level. The program provides grants for projects, festivals and special events that promote an understanding of multiculturalism, reduce prejudice and foster community participation in Queensland local communities.

As Queensland grows in cultural diversity it is very important that we work together to achieve mutual respect and understanding of different cultures and religions. In previous years, MAP has funded many multicultural projects, festivals and special events such as the Townsville Cultural Fest, Paniyiri Greek Festival and Woodford Folklines Multicultural Program. Events and programs such as these are a great way to bring the community together and increase understanding through cultural experience and community participation. Grants of up to \$30,000 are available to not-for-profit community organisations on a one-off basis to carry out innovative multicultural community projects with the potential to develop community relations.

MAP is part of the Queensland government's Multicultural Queensland—Making a World of Difference policy that supports diversity and harmony within the state. The 2007-08 MAP grant funding round opens this week and closes on 31 July 2007. I hope all members of parliament will encourage their communities to apply for a slice of this very worthwhile funding round.