



Speech by

Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard Thursday, 15 March 2007

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Multiple Birth Awareness Week

Hon. PD BEATTIE (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.51 am): As a part of Multiple Birth Awareness Week, I want to acknowledge the contribution that the parents of multiple births make to Queensland.

Mr Lucas: You're probably an expert there.

Mr BEATTIE: I am a bit of an expert in that, I guess. I advise the House that multiple births have hit record numbers here in the Smart State.

Ms Bligh: You started a trend.

Mr BEATTIE: Yes, I started a trend. In the last nine years, Queensland has seen a 40 per cent increase in multiple births—from 1,388 in 1996-97 to 1,932 in 2005-06. Of the total 55,677 births in Queensland in 2005-06, 3.5 per cent were multiple, including 929 sets of twins, 22 sets of triplets and two sets of quadruplets. Our public hospitals welcomed 1,117 of the babies born from multiple births while Queensland's private hospitals delivered 815. There are now more than 15,000 Queensland-born twins, triplets and quadruplets aged 10 years or under. I pay tribute to all of the parents of those children. I seek leave to have more details incorporated in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

Having twin boys of our own, my wife Heather and I know how a multiple birth can change your life.

Any parent understands that raising an infant is hard and stressful work, and from personal experience I know raising two or more at the same time can be twice as difficult and stressful.

Which is why the Queensland Government—through Queensland Health—provides additional support to multiple birth families such as visits from child health staff and by linking parents with other support agencies, such as the Australian Multiple Birth Association.

The Association provides information and support to thousands of mums and dads with twins, triplets, quads and more.