



Speech by

**Hon. PETER BEATTIE**

**MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL**

Hansard Thursday, 24 May 2007

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## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Anniversary of 1967 Referendum**

**Hon. PD BEATTIE** (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.35 am): This Sunday marks an important anniversary, as you have referred to throughout this week, Mr Speaker. Forty years ago on 27 May the 1967 referendum passed with 90 per cent of Australians voting yes to changing the Constitution and extending Commonwealth laws to Indigenous Australians. Fortuitously, this year's anniversary falls during Reconciliation Week. There have been many great Queenslanders who have fought for recognition over the decades, and I seek leave to incorporate a tribute to them.

Leave granted.

These were people of powerful spirit and vision, such as Oodgeroo Noonuccal and Lambert McBride.

My Government is committed to developing genuine partnerships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and improving their opportunities.

This vision is outlined in the Partnerships Queensland policy.

Of course, there are many challenges in turning around the entrenched and intergenerational nature of Indigenous disadvantage.

But my Government is taking a hard look at reforms in many areas—housing, community governance, alcohol management, policing, and cultural sustainability.

Mr Speaker, we are also this week announcing a range of initiatives to commemorate Reconciliation Week.

These include:

- A Perpetual Education Bursary for undergraduate studies;
- Funding the LaBoite Theatre for a production acknowledging Oodgeroo Noonuccal;
- Funding to develop the Centre for Indigenous Cultural Policy;
- Sponsorship for the Centre for Aboriginal Independence and Enterprise; and
- Support for the Indigenous Sports Awards.

As we look to 2009 and Queensland's 150th anniversary, my Government will be promoting more projects that identify the rich contributions Aboriginal and Torres Strait Queenslanders make to the Smart State.