



Speech by

Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard Wednesday, 5 September 2007

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Indigenous Art

Hon. PD BEATTIE (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.45 am): As members know, my government is committed very strongly to the development of Indigenous art. I want to report to the House that a near sell-out of an Aboriginal art exhibition in Victoria has created quite a buzz among art lovers and collectors there. The exhibition by 12 Aurukun-Wik sculptors is on at Melbourne's prestigious Gallery Gabrielle Pizzi. The exhibition has won many new fans of the art of Indigenous people living in far-north Queensland. The carvings have been snapped up by collectors and the exhibition has generated more than \$120,000 in sales for works. I congratulate them all. I seek leave to have the details incorporated in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

That includes totemic animals such as crocodiles, sharks, wallabies, dingoes, brolgas, and heroic humans.

The artists are masters of an internationally recognised sculptural tradition, using media such as wood, natural ochres and acrylic paint.

Several of the works will find a permanent home at some of the major public institutions in Australia to be enjoyed by the wider community.

The Gallery Gabrielle Pizzi is making Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts and cultures from Queensland more accessible.

The gallery has launched exhibitions around the world including Venice, Milan, Geneva, Moscow, Mumbai, Seoul and Jerusalem.

The exhibition in Melbourne is the third in a series of art shows aimed at raising the profile of Indigenous artists from the north-west coast of Cape York Peninsula.

A previous exhibition, *Storyplace: Indigenous art of Cape York and the rainforest*, at the Queensland Art Gallery attracted considerable interest revealing a new market for these unique artworks.

The latest triumph in Melbourne follows on from the recent successful opening of an exhibition of Lockhart River art at Spoleto in Italy on 2 September 2007.