



Speech by

**Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk**

**MEMBER FOR INALA**

Hansard Thursday, 28 October 2010

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## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Multiculturalism; Water Safety**

**Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Minister for Disability Services and Multicultural Affairs) (10.11 am): The Bligh government values and encourages multiculturalism in Queensland. We recognise the huge benefits that people from culturally diverse backgrounds can bring to our state. There was no better evidence of this than on Tuesday night when over 600 members of the Indian community, as well as members of the Ethnic Communities Council of Queensland and members of this parliament turned out to our own Speaker's Green to celebrate the Festival of Light. The local Indian community makes a huge contribution to Queensland's economic, cultural and social life, and only last month I presented the Indian community with a Queensland multicultural award at our annual multicultural ceremony.

We also recognise that people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds face challenges when arriving in a new region. As we move towards the warmer weather, I am pleased to report to the parliament on the tremendous success of the Bligh government's On the Same Wave program. In January this year, the tourism minister, the Minister for Sport and I announced \$100,000 in funding towards a multicultural surf safety program. This program, which is run by Surf Live Saving Queensland, has resulted in more than 8,760 individuals receiving beach safety education talks, with 20,000 people being exposed to key messages through Surf Live Saving Queensland's participation at festivals and public forums. Surf Live Saving Queensland has distributed more than 20,000 multilingual resources at these events and a further 10,000 have been distributed to other areas.

More than 100 classroom sessions have been conducted throughout South-East Queensland, Townsville and Cairns, but we are not stopping there. I am pleased to announce that Multicultural Affairs Queensland, in conjunction with Queensland Tourism and Surf Lifesaving Queensland, is planning a Multicultural Water Safety Forum on the Gold Coast on 7 December to increase the engagement of culturally and linguistically diverse communities in water safety messages. We want to ensure that there is a very clear message to all Queenslanders, especially those in our multicultural community, to 'swim between the flags'.