



Speech by

**Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk**


**MEMBER FOR INALA**

Hansard Wednesday, 6 April 2011

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## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Natural Disasters, Multicultural Community**

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Multicultural Affairs) (9.55 am): As the Premier has said, Operation Queenslander is well underway. Across Queensland we are seeing communities roll up their sleeves and get down to work. People have been working side by side to help families, friends and strangers in their hour of need. A great example of this can be seen in the generosity of our many multicultural communities right across our great state.

Members of the Indo Sikh Community Centre have recently raised money which will be presented to the Queensland government at the centre's first anniversary on 17 April. I thank the Sikh community for their generosity and kindness. I also had the pleasure to accept a donation from the Indian Australia Society of Queensland of funds that were raised from a dinner and musical function held in January at St Lucia Uniting Church. I would like to express my gratitude to the Indian community for their contributions.

A multicultural community fundraising event, which was organised by a hardworking committee including representatives of the state's Vietnamese, Singaporean, Taiwanese, Indian, Sri Lankan, Tamil and Muslim communities, was held at Oxley on 5 March. I would like to thank those who donated funds and also those who donated goods and services for the charity auction.

The Tongan community of Queensland also hosted multiple fundraising events in the month of February, featuring the Tongan youth of Virginia. Last week the Vietnamese community in Darra presented me with a cheque for the Premier's Disaster Relief Appeal. I would also like to acknowledge the Chinese, African and Italian communities for their specific fundraising activities, and all other multicultural communities that have contributed in so many ways.

Today the Vietnamese Buddhists are going to be present with us during question time here in Parliament House and following will hand over a cheque to the Premier's appeal this afternoon. I think all members would join with me in thanking all of our communities.

These events are a reminder of how privileged we are to live in a society that is rich in cultural diversity shared by some 200 different cultures, speaking more than 220 languages and following more than 100 religions. On behalf of the Queensland government, I once again thank our multicultural communities for their concerns and their generosity in contributing to the Queensland Premier's Disaster Relief Appeal. It has been encouraging how Queensland's diverse communities have come together as one to support and to encourage each other.