




Speech by  
**Grace Grace**

**MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL**

Hansard Thursday, 27 October 2011

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## **JUDITH WRIGHT CENTRE; NATIONAL BANDANNA DAY**

 **Ms GRACE** (Brisbane Central—ALP) (3.09 pm): The Judith Wright Centre was developed by the Queensland government and officially opened on 19 October 2001 by then minister for the arts, the Hon. Matt Foley. On Wednesday, 19 October 2011 a decade of Brisbane arts and culture was celebrated at the 10th birthday of the Judith Wright Centre of Contemporary Arts. Artists who worked and performed at the centre, named after poet Judith Wright, gathered for a special reunion in the Fortitude Valley art centre. In 10 years, the Judith Wright Centre has become an arts hub, showing an estimated 1,165 performances and more than 45 contemporary art exhibitions.

When the Queensland government first opened the centre it was revolutionary for Brisbane, but it has paid dividends for the local economy and social fabric of our state. The centre has been instrumental in Brisbane's cultural awakening and has contributed significantly to this government's agenda to modernise the state. When the Judith Wright Centre was opened, it was the first time we had a purpose-built space for the arts that served as both a venue and a home for arts companies. Working over the years with cutting-edge artists and companies, the Judith Wright Centre has attracted bright and creative people to our state and transformed creative ideas into positive artistic experiences.

For example, Expressions Dance Company and Circa are both creating their new work at the Judith Wright Centre and then touring nationally and internationally. I congratulate the Judith Wright Centre and all its staff on its first decade and look forward to the next decade of new and exciting work, at the forefront of contemporary arts in Queensland. Happy birthday, Judith.

Today is National Bandanna Day. I am wearing a bandanna. Members can obtain one from CanTeen, which is located in the electorate of Brisbane Central. CanTeen does an excellent job in helping young people affected by cancer. They will be out on the street selling these bandannas. They are relatively cheap. The money will go to a very good cause. I urge everyone to wear their support.