




Speech by

Desley Scott

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

Hansard Thursday, 17 May 2012

MULTICULTURALISM

 **Mrs SCOTT** (Woodridge—ALP) (1.03 am): I wish to share with the House tonight the sheer joy of living and working in our multicultural community. Walking down the streets of Woodridge you may encounter African mothers with their little ones—babies wrapped safely on their backs—young men from Cambodia and Burma on pushbikes or Pacific Islanders laughing together with their infectious humour. When our schools spill their students out onto the streets, it is like a United Nations. They come from Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Europe, South America—and, yes, the students in my electorate walk to school in great numbers.

Our ethnic communities in Logan now number in excess of 180. To embrace our multicultural community—and I am speaking of our entire state—is to enhance our knowledge of our world, to increase our understanding of culture and faith and to share in their celebrations and festivals. Last Sunday, Logan City came together to enjoy our annual multicultural festival, Kaleidoscope, with thousands of visitors, colourful costumes, dancers, drummers, music from so many cultural groups, delicious food and smiling, happy faces enjoying the extravagant display of the riches of our various cultures. I congratulate our Ethnic Communities Council of Logan, Paul Khieu and his team for another successful festival.

In recent times I have enjoyed so many diverse cultural experiences. I joined thousands of people who flocked to South Bank recently to enjoy the Buddha Birthday Festival, where I enjoyed watching wonderful cultural performances. This festival has now become a massive three-day festival. I congratulate the Buddha's Light International Association of Queensland at the Chung Tian temple in Logan City. Recently, Sinai College at Burbank celebrated its independence day, which I attended along with the newly elected member for Mansfield, Ian Walker. There we enjoyed much of the Jewish traditions of our city.

Whenever a festival is held, there you will find families enjoying their traditional culture, their food and their music. The Burmese people of Logan and beyond held their Myanmar Friendship Association new year celebration—their water festival—and it rained and rained. But it was a wonderful day. Another celebration was the Multicultural Business and Community Awards, with many of our Indian, Asian and Middle Eastern businesses represented. I would like to especially congratulate Janeth Deen, who received a special award for her selfless volunteer work which has lifted spirits and made life easier for so many. I have also enjoyed a visit to the Islamic Women's Association at Springwood, where so many services for the whole of the community are carried out with love and care.

As I said at the beginning of my speech, our multicultural communities enrich our lives and make a colourful mosaic of life in Queensland.