



Speech by
Reg Gulley

MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA

Hansard Thursday, 21 June 2012

SAMOA, GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATION



Mr GULLEY (Murrumba—LNP) (3.34 pm): Talofa!

Mrs Scott: Talofa!

Mr GULLEY: I take the interjection. That means greetings and welcome in the Samoan language. I rise in the House to share that I had the privilege of attending the golden jubilee celebrations of Samoa's independence, held at Maota Fono at Deception Bay on Monday, 11 June. I had the privilege, as the local member, of representing Robert Cavallucci, the Assistant Minister for Multicultural Affairs, and I would like to say to the member for Brisbane Central that he missed out on a great morning.

Samoa was one of the first Commonwealth nations to seek and achieve independence, and it is a credit to their character as a nation and community—

Mr Rickuss: They love rugby.

Mr GULLEY: Yes, they love rugby—that this independence from New Zealand administration was achieved through largely peaceful measures. The independence celebration included a celebration of heritage, culture, art, language, food and dance, and the day was about strengthening relationships and community spirit.

I would like to congratulate and thank the Aiga Samoa Association North Brisbane and the combined Christian Samoa Council of Churches in Queensland and the Samoan community leaders from Logan, Ipswich and the Morton Bay Regional Council. I would also like to extend a warm thanks to Taulapapa Lemalu Roy Slade, the President of the Aiga Samoa Association North Brisbane Inc.

The morning included an address from the pastor in Samoan. I picked up one word in that address and that word was 'Pentecost'. I believe he was talking about 50 years of Samoan celebration but Pentecost is a special word to the Samoans, a deeply religious nation and community. They also recognise Pentecost as being the coming of the Holy Spirit to their nation through organisations such as the London Missionary Society.

The weather was awful and cold, but the marching parade was bright and loud, the speeches were enthusiastic, the entertainment was brilliant and the dancing was entertaining. I note that the Samoans know how to have a good time. The Seventh-day Adventist Church brass band also added some oomph to the celebration. There were easily a couple of thousand people in attendance. I congratulate the Samoan community for putting on a great celebration.