




Speech By
Hon. David Crisafulli

MEMBER FOR MUNDINGBURRA

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MEMBER'S STATEMENTS

Mundingburra Electorate, Malayali Association

 **Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Mundingburra—LNP) (Minister for Local Government, Community Recovery and Resilience) (2.42 pm): Today I want to speak about a dynamic group in my community of Townsville. When I rise in this place, I use it as an opportunity as a call to arms to try to create something special for Townsville. The group I refer to is the Malayali Association. I had the great honour the other day of going with that group to celebrate Indian new year as well as Easter, and what a dynamic group of people they are. To see them celebrate all that is special about their culture was truly humbling and to be a part of it was fantastic. The food was great, the entertainment was brilliant and the friendship is something I will cherish for many years to come. This group holds movies, it holds dances and it promotes sporting opportunities, particularly in the area of cricket, which is their great passion and it is one they share with me.

Madam Deputy Speaker, may I read to you their mission, which sums up why I am so passionate about this group. Their mission is to 'integrate the best of Kerala traditions with Australian lifestyle'. There you have it. That is what a group can do when they come into a new country—they seek to remember where they come from but they also wish to be a part of that new society. This group have done it so well. I have many people from the Indian community living in the electorate I represent, particularly in suburbs like Douglas, Annandale and Aitkenvale. They have become part of our community and we love having them there. They have brought a dynamic nature to what is a fantastic part of our city.

Today I issue a call to arms, and the call to arms is one I issued on that night. One thing that Townsville does better than anywhere else is put on a celebration. We have a very successful Cultural Fest and we have a great Greek Fest. Further up the road in my hometown of Ingham we have an Italian festival. What I want to see is the Townsville community celebrate all that is Indian. I would love to see an Indian festival.

Mr Hathaway: I love curry.

Mr CRISAFULLI: That is the call to arms I issued on that night; that is the call that I will issue today. I offer my support—and indeed the support of the member for Townsville and the member for Thuringowa—to make this happen. The group have already met to discuss it after I issued that call to arms, and I am going to discuss it further with them on 21 June when they have their curry night. Let me assure the House that I will enjoy every moment of that—not just the fellowship but the fantastic food as well.

There is a golden opportunity to combine the great Townsville lifestyle with the can-do attitude of our city—where we get off our backsides and do things and celebrate a wonderful community that has become a part of my home city. They have embraced all that makes them special from the past and all that will make them special in the future. The challenge is set. Let us rise to the occasion.