




Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

Record of Proceedings, 15 October 2015

ADJOURNMENT

Logan, Islamic Practice and Dawah Circle

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (4.59 pm): On 18 September this year I joined leaders and community members in Logan at the annual general meeting of the Islamic Practice and Dawah Circle at the Australian Unity Centre, Slacks Creek. Those attending included Mr Ismail Cajee, president of the Islamic Council of Queensland; Dr Rafiqul Islam, IPDC central president; Dr Mohammed Akram Hossain, president IPDC Queensland and chairman of the Australian Unity Centre; Imam Akram Buksh, imam at the Australian Unity Centre; and Mr Jamal El Kholed, president of the Logan City Mosque. Also attending were representatives from Queensland government agencies and members of the Queensland Police Service in Logan.

The Islamic Practice and Dawah Circle is an important organisation that is committed to improving education, health, training and development within both the Islamic and the broader community. Programs conducted by the IPDC are focused on education and promoting social cohesion within communities in Logan City and throughout Queensland. In addition, the IPDC also works to promote community activities like Clean Up Australia Day. It raises antismoking and antidrug awareness issues, it assists new migrants and students, it promotes blood donations and it helps people affected by natural disasters.

I am a strong supporter of the vibrant multicultural community that is the city of Logan and the electorate of Woodridge. That multicultural community makes our state and our nation unique. Bringing family, life and cultural experiences together creates strong communities that embrace and accept people from all walks of life.

Islam is a peaceful and accepting religion that promotes the principle of treating others as you would have them treat you. There are some people in the Australian community who want to divide our community, spreading messages of extremism, fundamentalism and vilification. We need to stand against this. We need to stand for peace and unity. We need to turn towards each other and support each other and work together to continue to embrace diversity and to embrace multiculturalism.

I also visited the Logan City Mosque recently to celebrate Eid al-Adha, and I thank Mr Jamal El Kholed for arranging my participation. This festival embodies compassion and togetherness. It is a time to help others less fortunate and to pray for peace and for harmony. It is also a time for all of us to be close to family members. It was great to be able to celebrate these important days with the Islamic community in the electorate of Woodridge and in the city of Logan.