




Speech By
Peter Russo

MEMBER FOR SUNNYBANK

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ADJOURNMENT

World Arts & Multi-Culture Inc.

 **Mr RUSSO** (Sunnybank—ALP) (1.30 am): Tonight I would like to talk about a fantastic local organisation in the Sunnybank electorate. As everybody is aware, my electorate is a culturally diverse community. World Arts & Multi-Culture Inc. has enriched our community with different traditional performances, cultural exchange and cultural harmony. I am taking this opportunity to highlight yet another milestone for one of the most active community organisations in Queensland. World Arts & Multi-Culture Inc., also known as WAMCI, is an organisation with a goal to promote multiculturalism through the demonstration and exchange of performing and visual arts. This organisation was originally founded in 2003 and recently, along with the member for Stretton, Duncan Pegg, I attended its 12-year anniversary dinner. From my understanding, turning 12 years old is very special in Chinese culture. Only by celebrating with red and vibrancy can one get good fortune and happiness throughout the year. WAMCI does exactly that.

It is always good to have a special connection with an organisation such as this. Its mission is to introduce different cultural activities to the Sunnybank electorate. Only the other day I discovered that we share more than just our passion towards the diverse electorate: we share the same Chinese zodiac sign. Maybe it is this special bond that creates such a good working relationship between the organisation and me. I would like to acknowledge president Maggie Lu, life honorary president Melody Chen, life honorary adviser Lewis Lee OAM, and every single hardworking member of WAMCI in enhancing the cultural diversity of Sunnybank.

To shortlist a few activities, their infamous lion dancing and drumming performances impressed the Premier, all the ministers and guests at the first Sunnybank and Stretton community cabinet. It was the first time that I ever had the opportunity to play the Chinese drums.

A government member: How did you go?

Mr RUSSO: Very well! The list continues with concerts, Lunar New Year celebrations, cultural lessons, food appreciation events and other performing and visual arts events. Many of these things would not exist in Brisbane without this fantastic community organisation. I congratulate the current and past executive team. Their dedication, enthusiasm and vision are really inspiring to our community. Thank you for all the hours you have contributed. I look forward to what you have in store for us in the future.