




Speech By
Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

Record of Proceedings, 8 November 2016

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Indian Community Reception

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.41 am): Tonight, I am proud to be hosting the annual Indian community reception at Parliament House. This reception is about strengthening the relationship between Queensland and India. I have also invited the Leader of the Opposition and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition to attend this important event on our parliamentary calendar.

Thousands of Indian Australians have been celebrating the Diwali Festival of Lights. Diwali signals the victory of light over darkness, knowledge over ignorance, and hope over despair. This message has had particular resonance here in Queensland in recent weeks following the tragic loss of one of our well-loved and respected members of the Indian community, Manmeet Sharma. Queensland's Indian community is a valued and respected part of our wider Queensland community and, as such, all Queenslanders have been shocked by the events that have occurred here in our community to a member of our community. My government recognises and values the significant contribution the Indian community brings to Queensland and the long-standing and strong relationship the Queensland and wider Australian community shares with the Indian community and businesses.

Tonight is an opportunity for the Indian community to come together here at Parliament House, for us to thank them for their contribution but also as a sign of respect to remember the life of Manmeet Sharma.