



Speech By  
**Hon. Grace Grace**


**MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL**

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Record of Proceedings, 16 March 2016

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS**

### **Queensland Multicultural Awards**

 **Hon. G GRACE** (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (2.31 pm): As the proud daughter of an Italian migrant family, I have always championed the cause of Queensland's multiculturalism. That is why today I am delighted to announce the opening of nominations for the 2016 Queensland Multicultural Awards. The Queensland Multicultural Awards recognise outstanding contributions to a unified, harmonious and inclusive Queensland. They acknowledge community volunteers, groups, businesses, government agencies and media whose work with the multicultural community has helped all Queenslanders to participate in our economy and community.

This year there will be six categories and a special minister's multicultural award that will recognise an outstanding nominee. The awards have a long history and are well respected by our multicultural community. Last year we received 123 nominations, which is the highest number received in the past five years—congratulations to the previous minister—proving the ongoing popularity of the awards. One in five of the nominations has been received from outside South-East Queensland and just under half of all nominations received are from organisations, many of which deliver statewide regional services.

This year there will be two services and communities awards that will be awarded to both an individual and an organisation. This follows a large response in the category last year. The other 2016 award categories include the business excellence award, the education and training innovation award, the outstanding volunteer award and the communications and media achievement award. I look forward to presenting the minister's multicultural award to an outstanding achiever. With two categories designed to acknowledge the significant contribution of individuals, services and communities and an outstanding volunteer, there will not be a multicultural ambassador awarded this year. Instead, we will be promoting all of our award winners as multicultural ambassadors.

I encourage all members to nominate individuals and organisations in their electorates who do exceptional work in the multicultural sector. I also encourage members to promote this great awards program to their constituents at large. Nominations close on Tuesday, 3 May 2016, with winners to be announced at the Queensland Multicultural Awards luncheon in August. I urge all to get behind these great awards and celebrate all that Queensland multiculturalism has to offer.

I also congratulate the students of Northpine Christian College who today sang Bev Pershouse's song *Australian with One Heart* with soloist Carly Buchanan and musicians to kick off Harmony Day, promoting multiculturalism and inclusivity. Many thanks to the member for Morayfield for organising the event at Parliament House.