




Speech By
Hon. Grace Grace

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Multicultural Month

 **Hon. G GRACE** (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (3.05 pm): August is Queensland Multicultural Month and we are now more than halfway through. I am delighted to inform the House that it is already a resounding success. Formerly held over a week, this expanded event over an entire month has given many more Queenslanders the chance to experience culture, entertainment and cuisine from across the world. There are currently more than 70 events listed on the calendar including cultural festivals and fairs, exhibitions, musical performances and workshops, open days and market days.

Many of these events are supported through our Celebrating Multicultural Queensland Grants program. With this range of events on offer, there is sure to be something for everyone to enjoy. I have already greatly enjoyed attending a number of events from the massive Gold Coast Multicultural Festival, the Australian Italian Festival at Ingham—and wasn't that great?

Mr Cripps: Hear, hear!

Ms GRACE: I will take that interjection from the member for Hinchinbrook. I also attended the Toowoomba Languages and Cultures Festival. I saw the new member in the House, the member for Toowoomba South, as well as the member for Toowoomba North. I know that many members have attended events in their local areas.

In the first week I hosted the Queensland Multicultural Month business lunch where more than 200 business representatives gathered to hear about the economic value of cultural diversity. I was also delighted to launch the artists of Culture Train at Brisbane's Roma Street station, who will tour regional Queensland delivering an exciting program of workshops, concerts and performances. Culture Train performers are visiting many regional areas including Murgon, Toowoomba, Warwick, Goondiwindi, Roma, Surat, Townsville, Rockhampton, Blackwater, Barcaldine, Longreach and Emerald just to mention a few.

I am also greatly looking forward to going to Logan on Saturday to celebrate the finalists and announce the winners of the 2016 Queensland Multicultural Awards at a special luncheon. The awards 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.

Earlier this month I was also pleased to announce the members of the first Multicultural Queensland Advisory Council. The 11-member council will provide advice to the government on the needs and aspirations of people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and how services

and programs can be responsive to these needs. The council will also play a significant role in giving Queenslanders from multicultural communities a voice in the development of policies and actions that affect them and help shape Queensland's multicultural future. I look forward to working with the council in coming weeks and months.