




Speech By
Leanne Linard

MEMBER FOR NUDGE

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ADJOURNMENT

Zillmere Festival

 **Ms LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (9.07 pm): It is a pleasure to have an opportunity to update the House on the Zillmere multicultural festival, which was held in my electorate last Sunday, and to talk about multiculturalism across my electorate more broadly. The Zillmere multicultural festival, now in its 15th year, has become a hallmark event on our local calendar and is one of the many important events that have taken place during August as part of Queensland Multicultural Month.

The Zillmere community is known for its rich diversity and has a long history of creating opportunities to recognise, express and celebrate that diversity. With vibrant and growing Bhutanese, Islander, Indigenous, Indian and Filipino communities, among many others, Zillmere is reflective of the cultural diversity across the Nudgee electorate where almost 30 per cent of people were born overseas. Zillmere, along with surrounding suburbs including Boondall, Nundah and Chermside, are some of the most culturally diverse areas on the north side of Brisbane.

The Zillmere Festival is a celebration of that diversity—a celebration of and for people of all cultures and all religions to enjoy. The festival seeks to uniquely balance traditional and contemporary expressions of culture. The day formally commenced with a welcome to country from Maroochy Baramba, local elder Uncle Alex, traditional dance by a Zillmere Aboriginal local dance group and continued throughout the day with cultural performances including Bollywood, Egyptian, Columbian and Polynesian dance, African drumming, Italian opera and arts and crafts, fabulous food and pony rides.

This year the festival was delivered through a partnership between Jabiru Community Youth and Children's Services, Kurbingui Youth Development Association and MDA Ltd—three organisations that work with great passion and purpose to provide a connected community in my and many other electorates. The festival was funded by Multicultural Affairs Queensland and the Brisbane City Council, and it was a pleasure to join with my colleague Jared Cassidy, councillor for Deagon ward, to officially open the festival. The Queensland government has been a proud supporter of the Zillmere Festival for a number of years. I thank my colleague the Minister for Multicultural Affairs, Grace Grace, for providing festival organisers with the continuity of confirmed funding for 2017-18 in recognition of the importance of this event to the local community.

Queensland is an increasingly multicultural society, with census data estimating that Queensland is home to people from more than 220 countries and geographic locations. This government's commitment to multiculturalism, to the value we ascribe to social diversity and to inclusiveness, is demonstrated in the passing of the Multicultural Recognition Act 2016 earlier this year and its commencement on 1 July. This piece of legislation was an important step for Queensland in formally recognising our cohesive multicultural society with all of its diversity and the significant benefits this brings to our state.

In closing, I once again thank the organisers of the Zillmere multicultural festival, Kurbingui, Jabiru and MDA for their efforts in coordinating such a significant and successful community event that celebrated the diversity of our local community so well.