




Speech By
Mark Ryan

MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD

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ADJOURNMENT

National Indigenous Football Championships

 **Mr RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (9.11 pm): Last week football history was made with the inaugural National Indigenous Football Championships being held in Nowra. The championships were broadcast on SBS and NITV, and featured an array of entertainment and coaching clinics. By all accounts, the championships produced some highly entertaining football and showcased the country's best Indigenous players, coming together in a celebration of sportsmanship, community and culture. In acknowledging the importance of this inaugural event, I note that the bright yellow referee shirts had the words 'The world game meets the oldest living culture in the world' printed on the back.

Excitingly, Queensland was well represented by the South-East Queensland Dingoes. The mighty South-East Queensland Dingoes were made up of players from throughout the Brisbane and Sunshine Coast areas. I would like to acknowledge: the coach, Allan Takken, from Narangba United Football Club; the team manager, Wayne Alberts; and players Chris Swain, Matt Alberts, Nathan Walker, Jack Hayes, and Steven Cleary from the Caboolture Sports Football Club, Michael Atherton, Kenny Lane, Ronald Woulfe, John Woulfe, Tim Woulfe, Jacob White, Aaron Smith, Liam Wruck, Ramone Close and Jared Austin.

As we would all expect, the championships were hotly contested by all teams. I am very pleased to inform the House that the Dingoes performed extremely well. In the five games played by the Dingoes on the first day of the championships, the Dingoes were undefeated, conceding only one goal. In fact, the Dingoes played so well on the first day that one of the championship organisers said, 'The highlight was definitely the Queensland Dingoes team; they are young and agile. They really set the bar very high for this tournament.'

The Dingoes went on to beat the Northern Territory Buffalos in the semifinal. In the final against Eora United the game went down to the wire. After Eora United took an early lead, the Dingoes equalised the score. The score remained one all until three minutes before the end of the game when Chris Swain scored and secured the championship for the South-East Queensland Dingoes. Of particular note, Chris Swain was recognised with the Jade North Award for being the best player of the tournament. This award is named in honour of Jade North, an Indigenous player from the Brisbane Roar.

As the Dingoes had some difficulties with getting the team up and running, this is an outstanding result. I am very proud of the entire team. Well done to the Dingoes. They have proved that their bite is definitely worse than their bark.