




Speech By
Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe

MEMBER FOR SANDGATE

Record of Proceedings, 22 March 2018

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Gold Coast Commonwealth Games; Harmony Day

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (10.11 am): As members have heard, the 2018 Commonwealth Games will be the biggest event in Queensland's history, and I know that we are well prepared. Athletes and officials from 71 nations and territories have already started hitting the coast, host cities and pre-games training facilities. We are also going to see a massive influx of interstate and international visitors to Queensland. We are going to see Queensland at its absolute best.

As multicultural affairs minister, I want every single visitor to feel welcome and to feel a sense of belonging when they are in Queensland. 'Everyone belongs' was the theme of Harmony Day, held throughout Australia yesterday. Yesterday I addressed a breakfast here at Parliament House, which was attended by my parliamentary colleagues, to mark Harmony Day. It was hosted by the Ethnic Communities Council of Queensland. Queenslanders come from more than 200 different cultural backgrounds, speak more than 220 languages and identify with over 100 different faiths. There is no doubt Queenslanders from a diverse range of backgrounds will be cheering on competitors from a variety of nations and territories.

Queenslanders who hail from New Zealand will no doubt be supporting athletes from across the ditch. I know the Federation of Indian Communities of Queensland is heavily promoting the Commonwealth Games and that many of its members and supporters are hoping for a strong Indian medal haul. There are also a huge number of Queenslanders from the state's Pasifika communities who will be cheering on the colourful array of competitors from the Pacific nations. Of course, there are a large number of recent Queenslanders from the British Isles who will be supporting their nations and territories in their quest for gold. Of course, I will be strongly supporting the Australian team in all of the events they are involved in but welcoming the diversity of support from Queenslanders right across the state.

The Commonwealth Games is a great opportunity to showcase Queensland to the world as a united, harmonious and inclusive place. Let us make the most of it.