




Speech By
Jessica Pugh

MEMBER FOR MOUNT OMMANEY

Record of Proceedings, 18 November 2021

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENT

Mount Ommaney Electorate, Multicultural Events

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (2.03 pm): It is October—November even—and that means members of this House are attending a plethora of multicultural events in our holidays. It has been that kind of year, hasn't it? During the past few weekends I attended the Federation of Sri Lankan Organisations' beautiful celebration in my electorate at the Rocks Riverside Park. It was a really spectacular day. We had some really poor weather, but this day was absolutely perfect. It was wonderful to see in addition to the Sri Lankan community a high number of local attendees from Mount Ommaney not of Sri Lankan background who wanted to find out more about this beautiful culture. I place on record in the people's house my thanks to the organisers—Jay Weerawarderna, Jayantha Weerasesera, Jayantha Pathikirikorale, Mr Anton Swan, Mrs Gothanmi Meppe, and our fabulous local MC, who was a Riverhills local until recently, Yehanka .

The previous Saturday I attended the Tamil Association Deepavali event, a celebration of good over evil. If ever there was a time that we needed to celebrate light over dark, it must be after the last two years that we have had. I thank the organisers of this fantastic Tamil Association event. It was really well run and organised. There was a turnout I think in the thousands—I did not do a head count—but it was a fabulous event and my thanks to Palani Thevar for inviting me to represent the Premier at this wonderful event and the Muslim school in the electorate of Inala for hosting it. I was also privileged to be able to celebrate Diwali in the private home of one of my local Riverhills residents, Ravi, along with his family and friends. What an honour it was to be able to enjoy this private family celebration.

At all of these events throughout October and November, I did not miss the opportunity to remind all attendees to get vaccinated. I thank the organisers of both of those last two events for their support of this important message. My community now has established a permanent vaccination hub that opens at 10.30 am and closes at 5.30 from Tuesday to Saturday on Railway Parade in Darra. It is run by the fantastic Jon and his great team from Metro Health South. They now are doing over 100 doses a day on a regular basis of which up to 80 per cent are first doses. He has asked me to mention that he is running the vax hub at Carole Park in the neighbouring electorate this Saturday. Thank you Mount Ommaney for getting vaccinated.

(Time expired)