



Speech By  
**Peter Russo**


**MEMBER FOR TOOHEY**

---

Record of Proceedings, 9 March 2021

## ADJOURNMENT

### Chinese Lunar New Year

 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (7.03 pm): For some cultures the Lunar New Year, also known as Chinese New Year, is the most important holiday across Asia. It is a time of great cultural and historical significance and it is a time to honour the ancestors, the household and heavenly deities. It is also time to bring families together for feasting.

The time for festivals and celebrations coincides with the start of the lunar calendar and falls within the period 21 January to 20 February each year at the time of the new moon. This is a time of the year I relish and I look forward to attending the many celebrations that are held across my electorate. Last year due to COVID-19 many of these events and functions were cancelled, so celebrations this year were especially important.

I would like to acknowledge and honour the many associations and organisations across my community who held ceremonies for the start of the Year of the Ox and 2021. There was much laughter, happiness, exchanging of red envelopes and feeding of the lions who danced across Brisbane's south side and even here in this building.

One of the functions I attended was the Chinese Service Centre Brisbane. They planned a Chinese New Year gala night especially organised for recently arrived migrants. The theme of the gala night was 'new home' with the main purpose to provide a platform for new migrants to network with local community and to boast integration into society where they will feel like they are at home. The event definitely brought a sense of inclusion, cohesion and recognition.

Another event held during the Lunar New Year celebrations was the Southside United Multicultural Association and its monthly cuisine dinner invitation. SUMA was established with the main aim of helping international students living in Brisbane during the COVID-19 lockdown. SUMA liaised with various other community associations to provide and deliver food packages to people in need during the lockdown. Since the end of lockdown SUMA has decided to hold regular meetings at local ethnic restaurants where SUMA not only shares different foods but also shares and partakes in cultural exchange. SUMA focuses on sharing and learning amongst different cultures on the south side of Brisbane with the goal of fostering a deeper understanding and respect for all different cultures.