




Speech By
Peter Russo
MEMBER FOR TOOHEY

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ADJOURNMENT

Toohey Electorate, Harmony Week

 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (6.09 pm): Today I would like to talk about Harmony Week. With my electorate of Toohey being one of the most diverse communities in Queensland, I know Harmony Week is very important to my community. It was great to see the diverse cultures and communities coming together to build communities where people feel they belong and where they are valued, included and respected.

Harmony Week is celebrated in our schools, with many fostering inclusiveness by hosting barbecues for students and the school community. Ben the chappie at Sunnybank State High School sent out the call for 700 halal beef sausages, which were ably supplied by Mabrouk continental meat at Underwood. Sunnybank High has a student population representing over 50 different cultures. The school looks forward to their annual tradition of holding a students versus police soccer match but, unfortunately, due to the poor weather, this year's game was called off.

Last weekend the Universal Education & Multicultural Exchange Association Inc. organised a community-led Harmony Day Australian citizenship ceremony welcoming our newest Australian citizens into the local community. We had the pleasure of having John-Paul Langbroek, the member for Surfers Paradise, attend. These community-led ceremonies are a wonderful way to demonstrate values such as inclusion and connection with the local community. As the son of an Italian whose father came to Australia as an economic refugee, I really value the work done by these communities.

The Fiji Senior Citizens Association of Queensland, under the experienced guidance and direction of Surendra Prasad, along with the Universal Education & Multicultural Exchange Association, the Australian Indonesian Culture and Welfare Association of Queensland, Red Carpet Functions, the Korean community and others came together last Saturday evening in a community celebration for Harmony Day. The evening was highlighted with cultural and musical performances and an array of foods provided by the diverse communities who were there on the night. The Pakistan Australia Cultural Association also celebrated on Saturday evening, joining with family, friends and the community to recognise the Pakistan Resolution Day and to commemorate the Lahore Resolution. The president of the association told me they are one of the most recognised and oldest Pakistani community associations in Australia.