




Speech By
Hon. Leanne Linard

MEMBER FOR NUDGEES

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Multicultural Queensland Month

 **Hon. LM LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (Minister for Children and Youth Justice and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (10.01 am): It is August, and that means it is Multicultural Queensland Month. Once again this year we are in full swing, with events and activities taking place across the state. Multicultural Queensland Month is, of course, our state's largest multicultural celebration every year, with the theme of this year being 'inclusion in action'. Language is fundamental to building a truly inclusive community, and this year's theme is about exploring practical ways to break down language barriers and ways to use language to connect rather than divide.

The launch of Multicultural Queensland Month was marked with the release of our new Multicultural Action Plan. It was fitting to launch the plan and month at Radio 4EB, our media partner for Multicultural Queensland Month, who have created a special podcast series sharing diverse Queenslanders' stories and perspectives throughout the month. Our new Multicultural Action Plan consists of six actions: to build the economy and community; to provide better access to interpreters; and to improve cultural diversity data to enhance service delivery to culturally and linguistically diverse Queenslanders. It marks the next phase of the work that must be done to achieve a truly welcoming, harmonious and inclusive Queensland for all who call it home.

Multicultural Queensland Month gives us an opportunity to increase awareness of the benefits of diversity while sharing the innovative ways that people and organisations are making Queensland communities strong and cohesive. There is a large variety of cultural events being held across the state, including events funded under the Celebrating Multicultural Queensland program, such as Townsville's India Fest—

Mr Harper: Hear, hear—a great event.

Ms LINARD: It is absolutely a great event; I take that interjection from the local member—the Lockyer Valley Multicultural Festival and the Technicolour Multicultural Festival, which I will be attending next weekend, in the electorate of Stafford.

There are webinars being presented by industry experts from 2M Language Services; the University of Queensland's School of Languages and Cultures; National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters; and the Griffith University MATE program. The webinars are providing practical information, hints and tips on topics such as how to arrange translating and interpreting services, the importance of using inclusive language and the benefits of speaking more than one language. We again partnered with the RNA this year, who provide the Multicultural Plaza Music Stage to showcase incredible musical talent from across Queensland.

Last week I joined with the Queensland Community Alliance, Multicultural Australia and QPASTT to announce a partnership to deliver a new workers' rights, education and support services program. This was an election commitment from our Premier to provide education on workers' rights to new Queenslanders and assistance to vulnerable migrant workers about employment issues. We know that

this is an issue across our community—we heard it during the wage theft inquiry and the Queensland Community Alliance advocated passionately for it. Multicultural month is the perfect time to announce this new partnership, and I look forward to working with QPASTT and Multicultural Australia on its delivery.

Of course, the pinnacle event during Multicultural Queensland Month is the Multicultural Queensland Awards ceremony, which will be held at the La Boite Theatre. The awards have been running since 1990, and I look forward to continuing the tradition again this year and to congratulating the outstanding recipients. I encourage everyone to visit the Multicultural Queensland Month website to find out what is happening throughout the state and to embrace Queensland's diversity, promote inclusion and make new connections in the community this month and every month.