




Speech By
Hon. Leanne Linard

MEMBER FOR NUDGE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Diwali; Day for Daniel

 **Hon. LM LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (Minister for Children and Youth Justice and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (10.07 am): Diwali, also known as the Festival of Lights, is the most significant annual celebration in India and, indeed, in many other countries around the world. It has quickly become one of Queensland's biggest and most celebrated cultural events. Observed by hundreds of millions of people around the world, Diwali is steeped in tradition and meaning.

Coinciding with the Hindu New Year, Diwali symbolises the spiritual victory of good over evil and knowledge over ignorance. It is a time of celebration, restoration and hope for the future. With the lighting of millions of candles, festive lights and fireworks, this simple but poignant tradition also marks the triumph of light over darkness. That is a message that is needed around the world, particularly in places of ongoing conflict and famine.

It was an absolute pleasure to emcee the Premier's annual Indian community reception here at Parliament House last night, with approximately 400 people in attendance. It is always an honour to attend those events and join families, friends and the broader community as they mark this special time. Those celebrations are always filled with incredible sights, sounds, colours and aromas. Diwali events are truly like no other.

I thank all the organisations and individuals involved in bringing Diwali to life across Queensland and for their tremendous efforts to help build united, harmonious and peaceful communities throughout the state. The growing popularity of Diwali in Queensland is a testament to our strong multicultural identity. It is when we move beyond tolerance to the celebration of diversity that we truly begin to harness the beauty and opportunity that our differences present. Diwali truly encapsulates celebration perfectly. I hope all Queenslanders have a happy Diwali that is filled with joy and light. I wish all members and their families a year ahead filled with peace and prosperity.

I also take this opportunity today to acknowledge Denise and Bruce Morcombe and their family. I thank them for their service to keeping children safe and to encouraging us all to have challenging conversations with our children.