



Speech By  
**Christopher Whiting**


**MEMBER FOR BANCROFT**

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Record of Proceedings, 28 March 2023

## **ADJOURNMENT**

### **Multiculturalism**

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (7.09 pm): The word the member who just resumed his seat was looking for was 'conspiracy'. I rise to speak about a special event in my electorate on Sunday. The Brisbane North Chinese Association and Multicultural Queensland Social Network held a 'We are Australian' citizenship ceremony at The Corso in North Lakes. I commend Lewis Lee, Michael Huang and Carl Wu for their initiative and a very interesting ceremony.

I was very fortunate to deliver a speech on behalf of the state government. I used the opportunity to talk about what will be the first opportunity for these new citizens to cast a vote. I said that as new citizens they will have the chance to be involved in the next important step of reconciliation with our First Nations people. I was talking about the referendum coming later this year about the Voice to federal parliament. I told the new citizens that the Voice is a recognition that the First Nations peoples have guided stewardship of our land for countless generations. They have created or shaped the amazing land, the amazing productive land, that we all share today.

There will be many more steps such as the Voice that we will take such as truth and treaty as we create a nation in which we are one people, a nation that embraces all of our history, all of our stories. These stories become all our stories. I said to them, 'Your experiences, your voice, your stories, they will join with those from the rest of us. They count, and we will listen to your wisdom and it will become part of all of our shared lived experience. That is what the Voice to Parliament is about,' I explained. 'We will value the wisdom, the experiences and the stories of our First Nations peoples.'

I finished with this point: there is a reason we are called a Commonwealth. We have joined together of our own free will to make a nation. We have joined together to create common wealth we can all share and we can use to build better lives for all of our families.

This is a message about the Voice I wanted to give all our new citizens. I hope they now better understand why it is important to me that we all vote yes in this referendum. I know that message was very much appreciated by Aunty Brenda Kanofski. She is a Bidjara-Wakka Wakka elder and she has Chinese ancestors as well. Aunty wanted me to take these words and spread them around. I am doing it. I hope it meets with her expectations and I hope that is fine.