



Speech By  
**James Martin**


**MEMBER FOR STRETTON**

---

Record of Proceedings, 11 May 2023

## **ADJOURNMENT**

### **Australian Sikh Games**

 **Mr MARTIN** (Stretton—ALP) (5.08 pm): Madam Deputy Speaker, 'sat sri akal' to you and all the members of this place. That is a traditional greeting in the Punjabi language. I rise today to recognise the Sikh community and, in particular, the outstanding work of the organising committee and participating clubs of the 2023 Australian Sikh Games.

The games are an annual event that bring together members of the Sikh community from across Australia to compete in a wide range of sports and cultural activities. This year I was privileged to attend the games, along with the Minister for Sport, the Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe, which were held in Queensland on the Gold Coast and supported with funding from the Palaszczuk government.

The Australian Sikh Games have been a tradition for over 30 years and have become an important way for members of the Sikh community to connect with each other and celebrate their cultural heritage. The games showcase the talents of athletes and performers from the Sikh community and serve as a platform for promoting cultural exchange and understanding.

The games drew a huge crowd of over 100,000 people across the three days and had around 3,500 athletes competing. It was a truly great spectacle. It was great to see people of all ages competing in hockey, soccer, netball, weightlifting and more, as well as the traditional Sikh wrestling known as kabaddi, which is a fantastic game to watch. It is a bit like a combination between Rugby League and WWE, except it is very real!

There will be approximately 130 clubs competing from around Australia and overseas. It was fantastic to see clubs from my local area well represented, including: Brisbane Punjabi Community Club Calamvale, Indian Cultural and Sports Club, Majha Youth Club Brisbane, Indo Sports Club and the Calamvale Cricket Club, including many other clubs from around Australia. I make special mention of members of the Azaad Sports and Cultural Club of North Queensland and the Sikh community of Cairns who participated as well.

The theme for this year's games was unity and diversity, which is a perfect reflection of the values that underpin our multicultural community in Queensland. Our state is a vibrant melting pot of cultures, religions and backgrounds. It is this diversity that makes us unique and strong. The Sikh community has made significant contributions to our great state of Queensland for many years. In my local area they are also a regular feature of every Sunnybank district RSL Anzac Day, providing warm chai tea after the dawn service, organised by my good friend Parnam Sing Heir, president of the Australians of Indian Heritage War Memorial Committee. Congratulations also go to organising committee president Happi Dhami and secretary Jagdeep Singh. I say congratulations to the thousands of participants. I can officially declare that the 2023 Australian Sikh Games were the best Sikh Games ever.