




Speech By
James Martin

MEMBER FOR STRETTON

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ADJOURNMENT

Moon Festival

 **Mr MARTIN** (Stretton—ALP) (7.22 pm): Happy Moon Festival. The Moon Festival or Mid-Autumn Festival falls on the 15th day of the eighth month of the lunar calendar, which means celebrations in my electorate all throughout September and October. The festival is widely celebrated across east Asia, including China, Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Vietnam, Malaysia, Singapore and Indonesia, and, of course, in the Stretton electorate. Coinciding with when the moon is at its brightest and symbolising unity, this time is marked by many family reunions and also gives thanks to the harvest season that it coincides with. At the heart of the Moon Festival is the legend of Chang'e, the moon goddess of immortality. According to folklore, Chang'e and her companion the Jade Rabbit reside on the moon. Her tale speaks of sacrifice and the pursuit of eternal love and happiness—things that resonate deeply with people across all cultures.

One of the most beloved customs of the Moon Festival is the sharing of mooncakes. These delicious round pastries are exchanged among friends and family, and include many boxes of mooncakes being dropped off to my electorate office. It is little wonder then that my hardworking staff and I really love this time of year. Mooncakes are often filled with different fillings like red bean, mixed nuts, lotus paste, sesame paste, dates, pineapples, pandan or mocha, but, most importantly, at the centre is a delicious boiled egg yolk. A decent yolk-to-filling ratio is a must for any mooncake. I make special mention of the handmade snow skin mooncakes dropped off at my office by the Brisbane First Chinese Scout Group; the peanut butter mooncakes dropped off by Kingsfood Restaurant; and also, my personal favourite, the Hong Kong Peninsula Hotel mid-autumn mooncake from Sunnycare Nursing Home. I highly recommend it.

The Moon Festival is a time of family and community in the Stretton electorate, with many get-togethers and celebrations that I had the pleasure of attending, including: the Taiwan Women's League; WAMCI—World Arts and Multicultural; the Australian Queensland Fujian Association; Kingsfood Restaurant; Landmark Restaurant; the Golden Lane Restaurant; the Queensland Aesthetics and Dance and Promote Inc.; Calamvale Central and Sunnybank Hills shopping towns; the Australian Dongbei Chinese Association; the Queensland Chinese Catering Association; Sunnycare Nursing Home; Oriental Care home care; and the Queensland Chinese Orchestra.

I am very proud that Stretton and Queensland is such a successful multicultural community where differences are embraced and different cultural and religious celebrations are shared and embraced by all. I again wish all members in this place a happy Moon Festival and a happy Mid-Autumn Festival.