




Speech By
Hon. Charis Mullen

MEMBER FOR JORDAN

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Multiculturalism

 **Hon. C MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (Minister for Child Safety, Minister for Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (10.02 am): The Miles government is committed to celebrating and fostering Queensland's rich multiculturalism. Our Celebrating Multicultural Queensland program is a prime example of how we are doing just that. Today I am pleased to announce that this fantastic statewide program is delivering \$950,000 for 119 events and festivals in 2025. These events bring Queenslanders together and promote unity and inclusion.

Since 2020-21, we have invested more than \$3.6 million to help deliver 465 events. Increased investment across the past three years means our annual support for multicultural events and projects is \$3 million. Next year there are some incredible new events including Jamaica Independence Day on the Gold Coast, Latin Vibes on the Sunshine Coast and a celebration of the cultures of the Pacific islands and Timor Leste in the Whitsundays. We are also welcoming back the all-time favourites including the Taste of the World Cultural Festival in Rockhampton and the hugely popular Eid Down Under in Brisbane. These events are not just fun days out. They are about building connections between communities, strengthening understanding and fostering the unity that makes Queensland so special.

In the past 10 months I have travelled to Germany, Sri Lanka, China, Japan, the South Pacific, the Philippines and Vietnam to name a few—all without leaving Queensland. I am very much looking forward to our Indian community reception this evening hosted by the Premier. This is a wonderful opportunity for several hundred representatives from our many Indian organisations to come together to celebrate culture and community.

This is what our government stands for and will always stand for. Unlike some, we believe in an inclusive, harmonious state where everyone—no matter where they come from—feels they belong is very important. It is part of our vision for Queensland and we are backing it with serious investment. Today's announcement about multicultural events does not just benefit the communities hosting them, it benefits everyone. Events such as these provide an opportunity for all Queenslanders to experience new cultures, cuisines and traditions. They break down barriers between different cultural groups and create spaces—spaces where people can connect, learn from one another and celebrate what makes Queensland so unique.

The Miles Labor government understands that a united state is one where diversity is celebrated. That is why we continue to invest in programs such as Celebrating Multicultural Queensland. We want to see a Queensland where people from all walks of life come together to build a better future. The tens of thousands of Queenslanders who attend these events every year see the true value of this. It is something of which we should all be proud.