




Speech By
Corrine McMillan

MEMBER FOR MANSFIELD

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ADJOURNMENT

Mansfield Electorate

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (7.21 pm): The beginning of the year has seen much excitement in the Mansfield electorate between early morning parkruns, school leadership induction ceremonies and annual cultural events. Chinese Lunar New Year, celebrating the Year of the Dragon, is ever present in our community, with many families and friends coming together to usher out the old year and bring forth luck and prosperity. As not only the local member for Mansfield but a local resident in the electorate, it is wonderful to live amongst the celebrations and be part of these events. My community is blessed with a significant population of residents of Asian heritage. This diversity is a source of immense pride for me, as our multicultural tapestry adds richness and depth to our homes and to our community.

I had the honour of attending the first performance of the 2024 Chinese New Year gala show in Brisbane on 4 February where I witnessed the incredible talent and dedication of the Chinese community. This milestone event was hosted by the Queensland Chinese business council, the Queensland Chinese United Council and the Australia China Cultural and Economic Promotion Association. It highlighted the significance of the Chinese New Year, showcasing a magnificent array of performances. It was a joyous occasion shared with my colleagues the Hon. Mark Furner MP, Peter Russo MP and James Martin MP, deepening our understanding of the Chinese culture and its genuine needs. This remarkable event not only strengthened our bonds with the Chinese community but also left a lasting impression on the visiting groups from China, promoting Brisbane and Queensland as a welcoming destination. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to Michael Ma, Peter Zheng and the dedicated team for organising this world-class event.

I understand that my community highly values education. It is the reason many families move to our community in search of better life opportunities for their children. They know that the Mansfield electorate is a hub of educational excellence. They also know that this is thanks to the Queensland Labor government. The previous LNP government failed to build one new school in Queensland. In fact, it closed a number of schools and planned to close many others. Why do I know this? Nyanda State High School closed up the road from me and I ended up with all of the Nyanda State High School students at my school in Glenala. In fact, the LNP did not build one new classroom in our highly sought after Mansfield electorate schools. This is in stark contrast to the more than \$500 million that the Labor government has invested in our local schools since 2017. Labor will continue to invest in our young people. Labor will continue to believe in our young people as they are our future and the key to a strong, prosperous Queensland.