



Speech By  
**Jessica Pugh**


**MEMBER FOR MOUNT OMMANEY**

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Record of Proceedings, 15 February 2024

## ADJOURNMENT

### Vietnamese Lunar New Year Festival; Holi Festival

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (6.13 pm): Chuc mung Na moi! I am thrilled to rise in the House and speak about the recent huge celebration in my community, in the neighbouring electorate of Inala: the Vietnamese Lunar New Year Festival, which is organised by the Queensland Chapter of the Vietnamese Community in Australia. This is a longstanding event in the south-west suburbs and it is something that I am really proud has been going for around 40 years. That is a significant period of time when you consider that 40 years ago many of the people celebrating the event in our community were arriving on boats. It is now celebrated by thousands of people right across our community who come together to celebrate the Lunar New Year. This year we have ushered in the Year of the Dragon. Members can see that I am wearing my traditional Vietnamese ao dai, which I am always very proud to wear when I attend this celebration.

Attendees were treated to fantastic food prepared by hundreds of volunteers, but special mention must go to the huge number of snacks turned out by Pastor Hua's team. When I caught up with the Vietnamese Grace Church the next week for their follow-up celebration I was delighted to hear that the food ran out early, which means they all got to go out and enjoy the festival a little bit for themselves.

One of the highlights of this event is that all of the high-achieving high school students of a Vietnamese background get to come up on the stage to be formally acknowledged by the many politicians who attend and to be celebrated by the community. This is a longstanding tradition, and I assure the House that there were many proud parents in the crowd. This year, for the first time, the entire organising committee came onto the stage. It was a big stage but they took up the whole thing. I counted 23 members of the organising committee, each of whom puts in countless hours to make the event a success. I place my thanks on record, because they have been working on this event to make it such a success for around 40 years now. Special mention must go to the amazing Dr Bui, whom everybody in this place would know is an amazing advocate for the Vietnamese community.

I would now like to extend an invitation to all members of the House to attend another fantastic event in my community on 24 February this year. The Holi Festival is a signature event in my community. It starts at 11 am. If you have not been, it is a can't-miss event. It is organised by the fantastic committee from the Indian Cultural and Sports Club. Paviter and his team put in such a lot of effort. I will be there with the Minister for Multicultural Affairs. I invite all members to join us for this fantastic event. Both of these events receive state government funding and wonderful community sponsorship.