




Speech By
Margaret Nightingale

MEMBER FOR INALA

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ADJOURNMENT

Inala Electorate

 **Ms NIGHTINGALE** (Inala—ALP) (10.13 pm): I stand here tonight with immense pride to represent the electorate of Inala. As many here know, Inala is a blend of many cultures that define my beloved electorate. August is not just a month on the calendar for us. It is a celebration of the rich multicultural fabric that makes Inala a unique and dynamic community.

Our electorate is a living testament to the power of diversity. From the bustling streets to the vibrant cultural festivals, every corner of Inala reflects the harmonious blend of traditions, languages and histories that our people bring.

As we celebrate Multicultural Queensland Month, I would like to pay tribute to the countless contributions of our diverse communities. Throughout August, we have witnessed an array of events that highlight the beauty of our multicultural heritage. In fact, in just the last two weeks alone I have attended more than 15 such events. In Inala every month is multicultural month and I love it. From the lively Diwali festival to the spirited Lunar New Year celebrations, from dragon boats to lion dances, each event has been a testament to the rich traditions and cultural practices that our residents cherish and share.

The local markets in Inala are alive with flavours from around the world and the performances by artists from diverse backgrounds have brought our streets and halls to life with music, dance and storytelling. These events are not just opportunities to enjoy and appreciate different cultures. They are a reminder of what makes Inala so special. They serve as a platform for learning and understanding, breaking down barriers and fostering a sense of unity.

Each celebration offers a chance to connect with our neighbours to share in their traditions and to build lasting friendships rooted in mutual respect and appreciation. Our multicultural celebrations also reflect the strength and resilience of our community. They remind us that, despite our differences, we are bound together by common values and shared aspirations. It is through these gatherings that we renew our commitment to building a more inclusive and harmonious society where every individual regardless of their background feels valued and empowered.

As we continue to honour and celebrate the diverse cultures within Inala, let us also remember that our efforts extend beyond this month. Multiculturalism is a year-round endeavour—one that requires ongoing dialogue, understanding and support. In this new role as the member for Inala I will continue to champion policies and initiatives that promote inclusivity and celebrate diversity in all aspects of our lives.

I want to express my deepest gratitude to all the multicultural communities that have welcomed me so warmly. Thank you to the great volunteers of our multicultural community for all the wonderful work that you do to make Inala so great.