



Speech By  
**Barbara O'Shea**

**MEMBER FOR SOUTH BRISBANE**

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Record of Proceedings, 11 June 2025

## ADJOURNMENT

### Paniyiri Greek Festival

 **Dr O'SHEA** (South Brisbane—ALP) (9.32 pm): I had the great privilege of attending the 2025 Paniyiri Greek Festival in my electorate of South Brisbane last month, a wonderful, joyous celebration of Greek culture and, of course, featuring the most delicious Greek food, all homemade with love. Now in its 49th year, Paniyiri is the longest running Greek festival in Australia, as well as Queensland's largest cultural festival. This two-day event attracts over 50,000 visitors every year to enjoy traditional dancing and musical performances, honey puff eating, plate-smashing competitions and the always popular communal Zorba dancing. I was very pleased that the Premier, along with the members for Jordan, Maroochydore and Maryborough were all able to join Ms Freda Valassakis, president of the Greek Orthodox Community of St George and His Grace Bishop Bartholomew of Brisbane in opening this cultural spectacular.

The South Brisbane electorate has a long and proud association with the 30,000-strong Queensland Greek community. For many first-generation Greek Australians, it was their first taste of life in Australia, the place where they found a home, started businesses, sent their children to school and with their strong work ethic and focus on family, built a community. Each year the Paniyiri Greek Festival draws Queensland's Greek community back to South Brisbane to share their rich cultural history with a broader community and raise funds for charity.

As the member for South Brisbane, it is an immense privilege to represent the hundreds of Greek Queenslanders who continue to call our community home. Of course, the Paniyiri Greek Festival would not be possible without the efforts of over a thousand volunteers who give up their time to plan, prepare food and run the festival. I would like to thank all the Greek organisations who work so hard coordinating and organising this spectacular event including the Greek Orthodox Community of St George Brisbane and the Lions Club of Brisbane Hellenic. I know the whole community eagerly awaits Paniyiri 2026, which will mark the 50th anniversary of this iconic festival.