




Speech By
James Martin

MEMBER FOR STRETTON

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ADJOURNMENT

Lunar New Year

 **Mr MARTIN** (Stretton—ALP) (9.12 pm): Lunar New Year is always a very busy time of year in the Stretton electorate. We are home to people who have come from all over the world and there are many spectacular cultural celebrations that take place throughout the year in my community, and Lunar New Year is one of the best. It is a time for family reunions, delicious food, lion dances, red lanterns, honouring your ancestors and asking for good luck. It is also a very popular time of the year for young family members who receive good luck pocket money in red packets known as Hong Bao.

One of the most enthusiastic young people when it comes to this tradition is my son, Oliver, who is 11. He has Chinese heritage and he is certainly a big fan of that particular part of his heritage. The thought of getting a red packet full of money does tend to encourage very good behaviour so it is a good time of year for all the parents around Stretton.

This year we are celebrating the Year of the Snake. Those born in the Year of the Snake are said to have intelligence, wisdom and intuition. They are also known for being determined, caring and good at forming deep relationships. Each Lunar New Year, many other Labor MPs and I have the pleasure of attending numerous events hosted by outstanding community organisations on the south side, including the QCUC, the Queensland Chinese Forum, Sunnycare, the Queensland Federation of Taiwanese Associations, WAMCI, the Shandong Association and Chamber of Commerce, the Beijing Business & Arts Council, the Hakka Association, the Hong Kong Australia Business Association and the Chung Tian Temple, just to name a few. There are many more.

All of these community organisations rely on hardworking volunteers who put their own time and effort into organising these community celebrations. One of the highlights of the celebrations each year is the fireworks on top of Sunnybank Plaza, which are always very well attended by the community. It is fantastic to see so many families of different ethnicities—not just Chinese or Taiwanese people—out on the rooftop carpark each year enjoying the lion dancing, singing, cultural performances and, of course, delicious food.

Lunar New Year—Chinese New Year—is a lot of fun, and it is such a fantastic opportunity for Queenslanders to come together and celebrate in a shared experience. Another highlight each Lunar New Year is presenting my red packets with gold coins in them to locals in my community—for total transparency, they are chocolate coins. I would like to wish all members of the House and all people in the Stretton electorate a happy and prosperous Year of the Snake. Xin nian kuai le.