




Speech By
James Martin

MEMBER FOR STRETTON

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ADJOURNMENT

Ramadan

 **Mr MARTIN** (Stretton—ALP) (9.18 pm): I rise to wish the Muslim community in Stretton a joyful Eid—Eid Mubarak. Our electorate is blessed with a rich mix of cultures and faiths living together harmoniously. Today I recognise the holy month of Ramadan, which concluded earlier this week, marked by Eid festivities in my community. During Ramadan, our Muslim community fasts from dawn to dusk, focusing on prayer, growth and empathy for those in need. It is a time not only of discipline and devotion but also generosity and togetherness. Each evening at iftar, families and friends gather to break their fast, share meals and gratitude, and strengthen bonds.

Ramadan's values of patience, charity and unity echo across our community, urging us to care for each other and to give thanks. Ramadan reflects the unity, compassion and service reflected in all parts of my community. They are qualities that stood firm despite the recent cyclone. The storm brought hardship and damaged homes, cut power and disrupted routines, yet it revealed our community's strength. Neighbours helped neighbours, families welcomed in others and local groups stepped up.

In Stretton, we are lucky to have groups embodying this spirit and I commend the Islamic College of Brisbane and the Pakistan Australian Cultural Association for their service. Immediately after the cyclone, they both provided free meals to those struggling. This act of offering food and friendship captures Ramadan's essence, ensuring no-one is left hungry or alone. To the volunteers who organised this, thank you.

Our area has also hosted many wonderful iftars, including at ICB where I joined the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, the member for Jordan and the member for Logan. The Islamic College of Brisbane is a stellar local school. It also previously featured on an SBS TV show called *The Swap*, which is now on Netflix, where its students, alongside students from Padua College, Ferny Grove State High and Mount Alvernia College, swap schools to break down cultural and religious barriers. I encourage members to watch it, if they have not already seen it. As members, it is our job to support bringing people together and to challenge stereotypes, not to flame division or demonise particular parts of the community for political gain, and the young people in this show definitely get it.

Other iftars were held by the Kuraby, Algester, Bosnian, Logan and Stockleigh mosques, the Australian Pakistan Women's Association and the Bangladesh Association in Brisbane, plus smaller home gatherings welcomed friends and families to share meals at sunset. These events showcased our multicultural strengths with delicious traditional food included. Just like Christmas, Lunar New Year, Passover, Holi and Diwali, Ramadan and Eid celebrations bring us all closer together and all have a place in our community.