

Question on Notice

No. 900

Asked on 7 June 2005

MR CHOI asked the Minister for Energy and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy (MR MICHEL)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the National Day of Healing—

Will he advise the reason for the change from National Sorry Day and the importance of this day to all Queenslanders?

ANSWER:

I am advised by my department that the National Sorry Day Committee made the decision to change the name from National Sorry Day to National Day of Healing in order to broaden its focus.

The National Day of Healing is a vitally important day for all Australians. It is a day for reflecting on how the past impacts on people today. It is a day for acknowledging the hurt suffered by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, reflecting on what we can learn from history and using those lessons to work together to build a better future for all Australians.

Brisbane's major National Day of Healing event was held in Roma Street Parkland on 26 May 2005. Mrs Linda Lavarch MP, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Energy and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy addressed the gathering. The Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy contributed \$5,000 towards the event.