

Question on Notice
No. 687
Asked on 10 May 2006

MR ROBERTS asked the Minister for Small Business, Information Technology Policy and Multicultural Affairs (MR CUMMINS) —

QUESTION:

How much has the Government granted to the Zillmere Multicultural Festival and how will this assist my local community?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for his question and congratulate him on his continued support for Multicultural Affairs in his electorate and for representing me at this festival.

The Queensland Government is committed to fostering a positive community relations environment in the State. In my portfolio, grants are available under the Multicultural Assistance Program (MAP) for multicultural festivals, events and projects that provide opportunities for Queenslanders to interact and learn from each other irrespective of their cultural and religious backgrounds. This creates and sustains community harmony.

The Zillmere Multicultural Festival received \$9,000 in grants under MAP in 2005 and \$10,000 in 2006. In addition, \$81,500 was made available this year under the Breaking the Unemployment Cycle funding to assist with the festival. A community jobs plan project was funded for eight workers from Indigenous, Filipino, Spanish, Central American, Sri Lankan and Sudanese communities.

The festival demonstrates the vitality of a part of Queensland which is home to people from many different ethnic backgrounds and provides all groups in the area the opportunity to celebrate and showcase their cultures. At the same time, it has provided a real opportunity to unemployed people from culturally diverse backgrounds.

The event provides a clear message of diversity being ever-present, visible and highly valued.

The Queensland Government was proud to support the Zillmere Multicultural Festival.