

Question on Notice
No. 737
Asked on 11 May 2006

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

QUESTION:

With reference to the 2006 Buddha Birthday Festival which started during the week ending 6 May 2006 —

How is this festival significant for the local community?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for his question and congratulate him on his continued support for multicultural affairs in his electorate.

The Buddha's Birthday festival is a major community cultural event in Queensland and attracts people from all walks of life. The festival is an important occasion for Queenslanders from all backgrounds to come together and share what they have in common as well as to appreciate our different cultural and religious practices.

The festival was developed by Buddha's Light International Association of Queensland to promote peace and harmony, and counter racism. It is an opportunity to provide community access to Buddhist activities by "bringing the temple to the people". The festival provides Queensland's culturally diverse community with an event of international significance, to showcase multicultural and multi-faith exchanges between East and West.

In addition, the festival helps the wider community, with proceeds from this year going to the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital Research Foundation and Griffith University for health research, Medicine Sans Frontier, as well as Logan Hospital.

Since the Buddha's Birthday festival started in 1997 at Brisbane's South Bank Parklands, it has grown from an original audience of 5,000 to approximately 230,000 in 2006.

The Queensland Government is proud to have provided \$33,000 funding to the Buddha's Birthday festival.