Media Statement
Friday, 13 February 2009

QUEENSLAND PARLIAMENT MARKS FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE APOLOGY

The Queensland Parliament marked the first anniversary of the National Apology to the Stolen Generations today by partnering with the Musgrave Park Cultural Centre to hold a community celebration.

Speaker Mike Reynolds said that the anniversary of the apology was a day that should be commemorated by all Australians.

“Prime Minister Kevin Rudd’s historic apology on behalf on the nation last year was an extremely emotional experience for so many Australians, in particular, for members of the Stolen Generations.

“The apology showed that Australia was finally able to admit the truth about past forced removals and that we were ready to start the long process of healing.

“The 13th of February is an important date in Australian history - it is a day on which we should reflect on the past as well as the road ahead,” Mr Reynolds said.

Mr Reynolds was a guest speaker at the ‘Anniversary of the Apology’ event held at Musgrave Park today.

The Queensland Parliament was proud to partner with the Musgrave Park Cultural Centre in organising the event which saw a number of guest speakers and Indigenous entertainers perform to a crowd of approximately 200 people.

The ‘Anniversary of the Apology’ event was also supported by Link-Up Queensland, the Stolen Generations Alliance, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Health Service (ATSICHS) and the Queensland Aboriginal and Islander Health Council (QAIHC).

Mr Reynolds said: “As Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Queensland, one of my priorities has been to improve the way that the Queensland Parliament engages with the community, particularly Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.”

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