SPEAKER MARKS COMMONWEALTH DAY WITH YOUTH MESSAGE

The Speaker of the Queensland Parliament, Mike Reynolds, marked today’s Commonwealth Day celebrations by praising the young people of the Commonwealth.

This year’s Commonwealth Day theme was, ‘The Commonwealth at 60: Serving a new generation’, with ceremonies being held across the 53 nations of the Commonwealth.

Addressing a Commonwealth Day multi-faith service observance in Brisbane today, Mr Reynolds noted that half of the Commonwealth’s combined population of two billion people were aged under 25 years.

“This new generation of one billion young people will lead the Commonwealth into the future through their roles as leaders and responsible citizens,” Mr Reynolds said.

“Young people throughout the Commonwealth have an enormous contribution to make in their countries,” Mr Reynolds said.

Mr Reynolds noted that the mission of the Commonwealth’s Youth Programme was to provide young citizens of the Commonwealth with the critical knowledge, skills and opportunities to participate effectively in the development and governance of their communities and societies.

“The Commonwealth’s engagement with young people enhances their empowerment,” Mr Reynolds said.

Commonwealth Day is celebrated on the second Monday of March each year, and aims to help raise the consciousness of youth to the affairs of the Commonwealth of Nations.

The Commonwealth is home to a third of the world’s population with its two billion citizens coming from many faiths, races, cultures and traditions.

Mr Reynolds said that the Commonwealth provides a forum for discussion and strength for its member nations.

“In particular, the Commonwealth remains strong and respected throughout the Pacific,” Mr Reynolds said.

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