Speaker welcomes deaf community to Parliament House

Queensland Parliamentary proceedings were interpreted in sign language for members of the deaf community who attended sittings at Parliament House today.

Six AUSLAN sign language interpreters from Deaf Services Queensland each worked a roster of 20-minute shifts to provide the signing interpretation for the deaf community who filled the Parliament’s public gallery.

In the lead-up to the National Week of Deaf People which commences on Saturday, more than 100 members of the deaf community were welcomed to Parliament House to observe their parliament in action.

Mr Mickel provided a sign language welcome to the visiting group from the Speaker’s chair before the commencement of Question Time.

“It was an honour to welcome the visiting members of the Queensland deaf community to the Parliament today,” Mr Mickel said.

“It was heartening to see the public gallery so full this morning and I thank Deaf Services Queensland for jointly coordinating this visit to the Parliament.

“The aim of today’s visit was to encourage members of the deaf community to become more engaged with their Parliament and our system of democracy.

“Having Parliament interpreted in sign language this morning was a good example of how the Parliament is committed to being accessible to all Queenslanders.

“Today’s visit also helps make all Members of Parliament more aware of the issues faced by deaf persons in our community each day,” Mr Mickel said.

This is the third year in a row that proceedings of the Queensland Parliament have been interpreted in sign language for visiting members of the deaf community as part of the National Week of Deaf People.

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