



Speaker of the Legislative Assembly Parliament of Queensland

Media Statement

Thursday, 17 December 2009

Queensland Parliament welcomes 90 new Australian citizens

The Queensland Parliament hosted its inaugural citizenship ceremony last night, with 90 people from 28 countries welcomed as new Australian citizens.

Speaker John Mickel acted as the Presiding Officer for the ceremony, which was also attended by the Governor, Her Excellency Ms Penelope Wensley.

"I specifically requested to receive this Presiding Officer status as I believe strongly that our Parliament ought to be involved in welcoming new citizens to Australia," Mr Mickel said.

"On the eve of our Parliament marking its 150th anniversary, it is fitting that our nation's newest citizens are able to have their citizenship conferred here at the seat of democracy in our State."

Mr Mickel congratulated each of the new citizens on becoming Australians.

"There is no clearer expression of an individual's commitment to, and identification with a country, than to be officially become one of its citizens

"From your different countries of birth, your different backgrounds, your different life experiences, your different journeys, you have each made the same decision to become a citizen of our great country.

"Australia is a country of great cultural diversity and Queensland in particular is a place where people are able to live together in peace and harmony.

"The decision that each of you has made to become Australian citizens is truly commendable," Mr Mickel said.

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