



Speaker of the Legislative Assembly Parliament of Queensland

Media Statement

Thursday, 13 October 2011

SIGN LANGUAGE GIVES DEAF COMMUNITY CHANCE TO 'HEAR' PARLIAMENT

The Queensland Parliament today welcomed members of the deaf community to Parliament House to mark the annual National Week of Deaf People.

The morning's parliamentary proceedings were "signed" by five AUSLAN sign language interpreters from Deaf Services Queensland, with each working a 20-minute shift.

Speaker John Mickel said it was the fifth consecutive year in which the Parliament and Deaf Services Queensland had partnered for the event.

"The relationship that has formed between the Parliament and Deaf Services Queensland has been mutually beneficial," Mr Mickel said.

"It has been our aim 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 people in our community each day," Mr Mickel said.

Deaf Services Queensland Chief Executive Officer, Brett Casey, said: "For a number of years our community has taken great enjoyment out of seeing Members of Parliament tough it out during Question Time.

"It is very encouraging to see the community have the opportunity to meet and greet members of the State Parliament.

"We would like to pass on our thanks and appreciation to the Speaker for giving us permission to have AUSLAN interpreters present and for welcoming the deaf community in Queensland to come to Parliament House for this event," Mr Casey said.

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