

**CHINESE AND VIETNAMESE LUNAR NEW YEAR FESTIVALS**

*Statement by Minister for Citizenship and Multicultural Interests*

**MR P. PAPALIA (Warnbro — Minister for Citizenship and Multicultural Interests)** [2.12 pm]: I would like to congratulate the Chinese and Vietnamese communities of Western Australian for their Lunar New Year celebrations—it is the year of the earth pig. As a multicultural state where diverse cultures meet, Western Australia is an arena in which we come together to enjoy spectacular festivals. We, Western Australians, have a flair for embracing amazing, colourful festivals that have their origins all over the world and throughout the centuries. The Chinese and Vietnamese New Year festivals are two of our largest and most exciting events, drawing all communities together to enjoy cheerful family-friendly celebrations across the state. I was pleased to be able to attend both events this year.

Tet, the Vietnamese Lunar New Year festival, is organised by the Vietnamese community and transforms Wanneroo Showgrounds into a major Vietnamese cultural hub every year, with cultural shows, Vietnamese foods and fireworks. The Chung Wah Association's Perth Chinese New Year Fair in Northbridge was once again a major focus of celebration in the city on Sunday, 10 February. The annual fair draws crowds of more than 80 000 throughout the day and entertains festival-goers with lion and dragon dances, food stalls, a multicultural concert, competitions, cultural demonstrations and activities for all ages.

The Chinese New Year also provided an opportunity for me to announce the upcoming Perth Chung Wah Cultural Festival that will take place in May this year. This festival, a first for Perth, will involve a week of activities that showcase Western Australia and celebrate the local Chinese community's cultural and sporting heritage, including dragon boat racing, a Chinese lantern festival, a small business conference, a Chinese film festival and more. It will grow from being a local WA event this year to one that attracts interstate and international teams and visitors from 2020 onwards.

I am sure members of the house will join me in wishing Western Australia's Chinese and Vietnamese communities a happy, lucky, healthy and prosperous year of the earth pig.