

CULTURALLY AND LINGUISTICALLY DIVERSE COMMUNITIES —
MULTICULTURAL COMMUNITY HUBS

Mr Y. MUBARAKAI: Speaker!

The SPEAKER: Member for Jandakot; I am so glad that you called me Speaker, not President.

202. Mr Y. MUBARAKAI to the Minister for Citizenship and Multicultural Interests:

My apologies for that from yesterday, Speaker!

I refer to the Cook Labor government's support for multicultural communities across Western Australia.

- (1) Can the minister outline to the house how this government's delivery of facility upgrades and multicultural community hubs is building stronger local communities?
- (2) Can the minister advise the house what these facilities mean for culturally and linguistically diverse Western Australians?

Dr A.D. BUTI replied:

(1)–(2) I thank the member for Jandakot for his question and for being an outstanding parliamentary secretary in my portfolios, including multicultural interests.

Yes, I can inform the house that more than \$5.4 million has been allocated by the community capital works fund to assist grassroots community hubs supporting the growing needs of our culturally and linguistically diverse communities. Thirty-one CALD associations and community service organisations will now be able to upgrade, maintain and diversify critical community infrastructure in 35 locations across the state to ensure that these important spaces are available for generations to come. You will be happy to know, Madam Speaker, that I do not want to retain the record for the longest answer so I will not read out the whole list.

The SPEAKER: Excellent. I think there are two in my electorate, so I am happy to hear about them!

Mr R.H. Cook interjected.

Dr A.D. BUTI: No, I do not want to retain or get it back.

Mr R.H. Cook: Give it a crack!

Dr A.D. BUTI: No, I will not do that!

We have the Italian club in Collie, the Macedonian community in Manjimup, the Sikh Gurdwara in Bennett Springs and the Chung Wah Association heritage-listed building in Northbridge. There is funding throughout the regions and metropolitan Western Australia. Before I go on, this does not include the other funding that we have given for the Jewish community centre in Yokine, the Chung Wah centre that is being built in Bentley and the Vietnamese cultural centre that is happening in Girrawheen. We are really, really investing in our various CALD community groups. What is important is that these facilities are run and operated by volunteer groups and provide culturally appropriate services, including for people who have recently come from refugee situations or are newly arrived migrants. The services include family support, enterprise development and housing support. They are incredibly important hubs for various CALD communities. As I said, it is in not just one part of the metropolitan area, but across the metropolitan area and the regions. The Cook Labor government values multiculturalism. It is one of our greatest strengths. This funding demonstrates our commitment to ensuring CALD communities continue to flourish and contribute to our unique social, economic and cultural fabric.

Whenever I walk into our Labor Party caucus room, I see that diversity. I see in front of my eyes the diversity of our members of Parliament. That is quite different from the opposition benches, when I look over that side. At the next election, the Nationals WA will have three —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please!

Dr A.D. BUTI: — white men standing for the three seats they retain at the moment. We are incredibly diverse on our side.

Last week, with the Premier, I had the honour of attending the celebration of the Western Australian Multicultural Awards, which was a terrific night. I was not only there with the Premier; I was there with my parliamentary secretaries and a number of caucus members from CALD backgrounds. It was disappointing that on the biggest night in the multicultural calendar not to have one opposition member of Parliament there.

Dr D.J. Honey interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please!

Dr D.J. Honey interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please!

Dr A.D. BUTI: I have to say that it was noticed. But the multicultural communities in Western Australia know that they can always trust and value the Western Australian Labor Party when it is in government to invest in our CALD communities. That is reflected in this latest round of investment to the tune of \$5.4 million.