



SEATH HOLSWICH MP – STATE MEMBER FOR PINE RIVERS

SPEECH
26th January 2013

MORETON BAY AUSTRALIA DAY CITIZENSHIP CEREMONY - STRATHPINE

Ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls, it is my absolute pleasure to be welcoming you today on behalf of the Queensland Government as Australia's newest citizens.

Today is the start of a new chapter of life for each of you who have taken the step of citizenship today. Whatever the previous chapters of your life contained – whether good or bad – you have given yourself the opportunity to start a brand new chapter in your lives by becoming Australian citizens.

One of the strengths of Australia is our diversity. The culture, the experiences that each of you bring to our community help to make our nation a better and more exciting place to live.

I hope that you enjoy the rights and benefits that Australian citizenship brings with it. But I also hope that you take the responsibilities of citizenship seriously.

place to live and I hope that each of you, as I know many of you are already, will take up that challenge.

Australia Day is special day for our nation. It is a day to reflect on what we have achieved and what we can be proud of – it is also a day for us to re-commit to making Australia an even better place for the future.

Australia Day is also a time to look to the future and consider the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

We have so many reasons to celebrate and be proud of on our national day - our land, our people, our diversity and our cultures, our freedom and democracy and our belief in a fair go.

Australia Day gives us all the chance to reflect on the privilege and benefits of living in a country where people from different backgrounds are able to live in peace.

Once again, congratulations on becoming an Australian citizen today and I hope each of you enjoy, and contribute to, everything that makes Australia such a great place to live.