



The Honourable Glen Elmes MP

Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Multicultural Affairs and Minister Assisting the Premier

I send my warm wishes to the Hindu community on the Gold Coast as you gather to celebrate one of the greatest Hindu festivals—the festival of Navaratri.

Today's Queensland has a rich, diverse cultural composition. As Minister for Multicultural Affairs, I am passionate about supporting the recognition and celebration of that diversity across our great state.

Our diverse ancestries, faiths and cultures highlight the importance of us all sharing, acknowledging and respecting our differences, and learning about our cultures and traditions.

The Gold Coast truly reflects Queensland's diversity of cultures, faiths and life experiences and it is great to see the region's cultural calendar made richer with this inaugural Navaratri festival.

Organised by the Gold Coast Hindu Cultural Association, the inaugural festival is sure to provide residents and visitors to the Gold Coast region with a unique opportunity to experience and learn about Hindu culture and tradition.

I congratulate the association on its initiation of this new festival and wish the association every success.