Tonight we celebrate the heart of Casuarina, our cultural leaders, teachers, students, artists, athletes and every resident who showed strength during tough times. They are the pride of our electorate and represent the very best of the Northern Territory.

Mr CHARLS (Sanderson): Madam Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to acknowledge some of the recent events I have attended around the Territory.

What a fantastic evening I had at *A Night in Italy*. It was a wonderful cabaret dinner filled with classic Italian songs, incredible performances by Rick Romeo and Petah Cavallaro and a great celebration of culture and community. Thank you to Max and Felix and all the Italian Sports and Social Club Committee.

I had the opportunity to join a wonderful evening celebrating Saint Dimitrios with the St Savvas Greek Orthodox Palmerston Parish community. It was a joy to join Father Christos and the committee for such a warm and welcoming dinner dance fundraiser filled with faith, food, music and dancing. Thank you to the St Savvas Committee.

Sincere thanks to Chief Minister Lia Finocchiaro for hosting the Navratri Festival at Parliament House, an important and much-loved Hindu celebration. Last year she promised she would host the event, and she stuck by her word. Thank you for supporting the diversity that enriches our Northern Territory. Thank you to the Gujarati Cultural Association of Darwin (GCAD) and to President Hinranch Patel for coordinating this wonderful event. I also thank Minister Boothby and the Member for Casuarina for attending the celebration.

Thank you to Michael Koulianos, the president of the Greek Orthodox Community of Northern Australia for the kind invitation to commemorate the 85th anniversary of Oxi Day. It is important that we continue to commemorate Oxi Day and honour the courage, resilience and sacrifice of the Greek people during World War II. Also in attendance were my colleagues the Chief Minister, Minister Cahill and Minister Hersey to celebrate this important day with the community.

The Northern Territory's rich cultural diversity was on full display during my recent visit to the Gurudwara Sahib Alice Springs Temple. With more than 100 people in attendance, it was a vibrant and uplifting opportunity to celebrate community, culture and connection. I was joined by several parliamentary colleagues including the Chief Minister, Minister Burgoyne, Laurie Zio, Khoda Patel, Brian O'Gallagher, Oly Carlson and Matthew Kerle.

What a wonderful celebration of Japanese culture at the Japanese Culture Day event. From calligraphy and origami to summer kimono try-ons and the traditional tea ceremony. A big thank you to Janet Truong, President of the Australian Japanese Association of the NT Inc for putting together such a beautiful and authentic event. I thank Minister Boothby, Minister Hersey and Member for Wanguri for being there and supporting the community.

I thoroughly enjoyed an evening with the vibrant Nepalese community where they thanked their volunteers. A special thank you to Prativa Devkota, President of the Non-Resident Nepali Association of Northern Territory for hosting this wonderful event and for recognising the hardworking volunteers whose dedication and spirit make such a difference in our community. I thank Minister Boothby for being there and supporting the community.

The Buddhist Society of the Northern Territory has once again brought people together through incredible food, performances and warm hospitality at the International Food Fair. A big thank you to the organisers and volunteers for creating such a vibrant Territory atmosphere with excellent food from all over the world. Thank you Dr Bandula Abeywickrama, President, and the committee members, for coordinating such a wonderful event. I also thank Minister Boothby and the Member for Wanguri for being there and supporting the community.

A big thank you to Reinis Dancis, President of the Latvian Association of Darwin for hosting such a meaningful event to mark the 107th anniversary of Latvia's independence and for bringing the community together to honour this important occasion. Thank you to Her Excellency, Samija Serifa, Ambassador of Latvia to Australia and Valda Liepina, Chair of the Board of the Association of the Museum of Occupation of Latvia for her attendance. Thank you to the Chief Minister and Member for Fannie Bay for being there.

I was privileged to represent the Chief Minister at the Islamic Society of Darwin's Mosque Open Day and Interfaith Day. It truly highlighted how diversity strengthens our Territory community. The Northern Territory continues to foster strong connections built on understanding, respect, and unity. Thank you to Michael and

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