



Speech by

Mr ALLAN GRICE, OAM

MEMBER FOR BROADWATER

Hansard 12 November 1998

SCHOOLIES WEEK

Mr GRICE (Broadwater—NPA) (10.25 a.m.): I wish to congratulate the Gold Coast Bulletin on a wonderful initiative on the eve of Schoolies Week on the Gold Coast, titled How Drugs can Ruin Schoolies for You. A special supplement sets out all the dangers of taking drugs, many warnings and a hard-hitting survey aimed at young people, their families and others. It warns of the ultimate penalties to be incurred if people are caught either taking illegal drugs or peddling them. The supplement should be in every home in the State so that people can better understand the problems facing our community, especially the Police Service. Particularly, it is a supplement that I hope will encourage those young people coming to the Gold Coast for Schoolies Week to stay away from drug taking, because the end result could be disastrous and tragic for them.

We want more of these campaigns so that the problem is tackled in a very positive way. We cannot just hope that the Police Service or community organisations can deal with this problem on their own. They need all our help and I feel the contribution of the Gold Coast Bulletin should be applauded. I think the Courier-Mail could learn from it.

Recently, on the Gold Coast I embarked on an exercise to encourage more people to come forward with information about the illegal drug trade. To date, there has been a strong response and information has been supplied to certain people to assist in the never-ending fight against drug trafficking. We must continue to encourage the public to come forward with information to help police and others in trying to beat this terrible scourge that confronts us all.

Further, I would like to assist the Police Minister, who once again is almost half right. The first Police Beat was opened in the Cavill Mall on the Gold Coast by the member for Keppel. It was closed by the member for Chatsworth and then, after consideration, was reopened. This was an initiative initially of the Queensland Police Service and the CJC. Again, the Police Minister has almost got it half right.
