



Speech by

Mr D. BRISKEY

MEMBER FOR CLEVELAND

Hansard 5 August 1998

MR J. AUTON

Mr BRISKEY (Cleveland—ALP) (10.19 a.m.): I rise to speak about a young man with a big future. Jason Auton of Cleveland was recently named Young Retail Executive of the Year. I first met Jason in 1992 when he was the school captain at Cleveland State High School. Jason and I have kept in contact since then and I am proud of his recent achievement. Jason was extremely popular at school and his year as school captain was marked by many achievements. His personality is such that he makes friends easily and, once made, those friendships remain.

The Cleveland State High School has produced many high achievers and leaders, and Jason is one of them. I know that Jason is proud of his old school and he still drops in occasionally to say hello to former teachers and friends. After completing Senior, Jason started his working career at Woolworths in Cleveland. He acquired a position as a trainee manager. He moved from the Cleveland store to the buying department at Acacia Ridge, a job that he enjoys. He is presently assistant buying administration manager and is responsible for stock distribution and buying.

I have watched Jason's career achievements with Woolworths. It was no surprise to me when he received his award on Wednesday night of last week. Retailers Association of Queensland executive director Patrick McKendry said of Jason—

"Jason got the nod because he had a stronger grip or understanding on contemporary issues which impact on retailing."

On receiving the award, Jason said—

"Retailing offers an enormous opportunity for advancement through a wide variety of career paths. The perception of retailing as a job behind a counter filling shopping trolleys is rapidly changing."

Jason is currently studying for a Certificate of Retail at Griffith University. After his win, Jason will represent Queensland in the national finals later this year. I wish him all the best in these finals. I know that he will do his State proud. I say: "Well done, Jason. I'm proud of you. I know that you will go a long way in your chosen career and I know that you'll understand when I say, 'I told you so'."
