



Speech by

DESLEY BOYLE

MEMBER FOR CAIRNS

Hansard 26 August 1998

DRUG ADDICTION

Ms BOYLE (Cairns—ALP) (10.19 a.m.): Concerns about young people and drug abuse are reported almost daily in the media. I welcome the decision of the Premier and his Ministers to act on alternative treatments for heroin addiction. However, as important as is treatment for drug problems, perhaps even more important is prevention through education and support. Teachers and health professionals in Cairns are combining efforts to lead the way.

In Cairns, from 15 to 18 August, Queensland Health and Education Queensland combined forces to present a conference titled "Sex, Drugs and Education". The objective of the conference was to encourage teachers to promote sexual health and drug awareness and to present a new curriculum that will start in the early grades and continue through high school grades. What is particularly noteworthy is that teachers from throughout the north attended in numbers and with enthusiasm. When one considers how heavy are the curriculum and extra duty demands on teachers these days, one realises that their commitment to this cause is commendable. After all, especially with adolescents, there is a difficulty communicating about such tender topics and frequently a resistance from youth themselves to discussing these topics with adults.

The conference was a great success. Proud as I am that the people from Cairns and the far north are again leading the way, I present my particular compliments to the Ministers for Education and Health and to the staff involved in this fine initiative. When Education and Health combine forces, they just may be so formidable as to make a difference for the youth of today that will provide them with a better future.
