



Speech by

DESLEY BOYLE

MEMBER FOR CAIRNS

Hansard 22 October 1998

SCHOOL UNIFORMS

Ms BOYLE (Cairns—ALP) (10.17 a.m.): I bring to the attention of the House the Ombudsman's decision that principals are acting unlawfully by making students wear uniforms. This decision——

Mr Gibbs: Tell them the rorts you got into over it. You're a sleaze-bag.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The Minister for Tourism!

Mr BORBIDGE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The comments made by the Minister are unparliamentary, offensive and I ask that they be withdrawn.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Do you withdraw those words, Minister?

Mr GIBBS: I do not know what he found offensive: the fact that I referred to him as a sleaze-bag or that the whole thing was a rort. Which one?

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The remarks are unparliamentary. I ask you to withdraw, Minister.

Mr BORBIDGE: I rise to a point of order, Mr Speaker. What about the new parliamentary standards promised by the member for Brisbane Central?

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The House will come to order.

Mr GIBBS: The Leader of the Opposition deliberately misled the Parliament in what he was saying, but I withdraw.

Mr BORBIDGE: I rise to a point of order, Mr Speaker. I have not deliberately misled the Parliament. I find those remarks offensive and I ask that they be withdrawn. Where are the parliamentary standards that were promised by the member for Brisbane Central?

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The Minister will withdraw those words that the Leader of the Opposition finds offensive.

Mr GIBBS: I withdraw.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I again call the member for Cairns.

Ms BOYLE: I am drawing to the attention of the House—despite interference—a very important matter, that is, the wearing of school uniforms by children at the direction of their principals and their P & C associations.

The Ombudsman's decision has caused some considerable concern in Cairns, particularly to the principal of the Cairns State High School, Mr Bernie MacKenzie. Even the editorial of the Cairns Post has pointed out this morning the important and good reasons why schoolchildren should be strongly encouraged to wear uniforms. The main one, of course, is their recognition and their protection and, therefore, their safety and security within school grounds.

When the school policies do recognise diverse needs in different areas of this State and when those policies also are negotiated between the principal and the P & C, then I would like publicly to state for Mr MacKenzie and other principals at high schools in Cairns and in primary schools that I will strongly support their endeavours and those of the P & C to ensure that their school students are appropriately dressed.