



Speech by

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NESTLE WRITE AROUND AUSTRALIA CREATIVE WRITING AWARDS

Mr WILSON (Ferry Grove—ALP) (8.29 p.m.): On Wednesday, 4 November, at the State Library of Queensland, the Honourable Matt Foley, Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for The Arts, presented the Nestle Write Around Australia creative writing awards to 20 young writers from across Queensland. The State winner for Year 6 was Daniel Patterson from Mackay Adventist Christian School for "Just One More Time" and for Year 7, Naomi Fisher, from St Paul's School, Gracemere, for "Through a Dragonfly's Eye". It gave me great pleasure to share this important event with one of the finalists, Maolyse Craig, and her parents. Maolyse attends the excellent Mitchelton State School in my electorate. Her story was, "The Real Hero".

Nestle Write Around Australia is a public library-based creative writing program which targets young people in Year 6 and Year 7. Twenty-four thousand entries were received, with 3,650 entries from Queensland. A highlight of the program is the creative writing workshops conducted in public libraries by Australian children's writers. The writers spend a week at the public libraries sharing their experience of the creative writing process with classes from local schools. Prizes are valued at \$200,000, including computers, printers and software for the two national winners and collections of Australian children's books valued at \$500 for zone winners and their school libraries. All of the winning stories are published in a special Nestle Write Around Australia story collection, which is distributed to all primary schools and public libraries in Australia.

I commend Nestle Australia for their continued support for the concept and I commend the authors involved and all the young Queenslanders and their parents for their participation. I especially commend the Queensland State Library for its active and innovative work in promoting the integral role of public libraries in building informed and creative local communities in this State.
