



Speech by

JULIE ATTWOOD

MEMBER FOR MOUNT OMMANEY

Hansard 21 October 1998

OXLEY SECONDARY COLLEGE; MONTROSE SPECIAL SCHOOL

Mrs ATTWOOD (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (10.14 a.m.): I would like to draw members' attention to a special high school in my electorate called the Oxley Secondary College. On Friday night I was invited to a comedy performance of the *Man of Steel* at the Montrose Special School at Corinda. This play was produced by students and staff at the Oxley Secondary College at Seventeen Mile Rocks Road in Oxley. It was the first amateur performance I had seen in a number of years and it was fascinating to see such professionalism shown by students from this college.

The Oxley Secondary College provides a vast array of learning opportunities for both high-school aged students and adults. There are night and day classes which cover a range of subjects and topics. There is a large number of students from a range of ethnic backgrounds and a number of students with learning disabilities. The standard of teaching is of a high level and special attention is given to disadvantaged students. The P & C association, which I have visited on a number of occasions, is a small but enthusiastic group of committed parents. It provides strong support to the school and the students' learning needs. But the parents cannot provide everything.

The school has been awaiting a construction court for its manual arts department unit. It was shelved by the previous Government and I intend to get it back on the agenda. The manual arts department provides courses which lead the students to obtaining credit into TAFE construction and trade courses and subsequently apprenticeships. The construction court is needed so that students can practise their skills out in the open where they can build a brick wall and generally put their theory into practice. It is important to promote and foster these skills in the school. Not everyone will be able or willing to go on to university. This school provides the opportunity for young people to have a choice—a choice about jobs paths. The focus is certainly on jobs and social skills.

The *Man of Steel* performance last Friday night attested to the school's——
Time expired.
