



Speech by

LINDA LAVARCH

STATE MEMBER FOR KURWONGBAH

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TOURNAMENT OF THE MINDS

Mrs LAVARCH (Kurwongbah—ALP) (10.28 a.m.): Last weekend, some 651 schools across Queensland entered 1,463 teams in the 1998 Tournament of the Minds competition. I had the privilege of attending the Brisbane north region competition on Sunday, which involved nearly 1,400 students from over 70 schools, both primary and secondary.

Tournament of the Minds is in its tenth year in Queensland, having commenced in 1989 as an initiative of the Queensland Association of Gifted and Talented Children. The competition is aimed at stimulating divergent and critical thought, fostering cooperative problem solving and encouraging experimentation in a positive and fun learning environment.

In the tournament's inaugural year, 73 schools and 162 teams participated at one central venue. Since its inception, more than 60% of all Queensland schools have at some time been involved in the tournament program. The program involves three long-term problems in the general areas of language, literature, maths/engineering and social sciences being presented to the schools six weeks prior to the tournament. Teams choose one of these problems and prepare to present the solution in a dramatic form on the day.

I congratulate all the regional winners and wish them well for the State finals, to be held on 13 September at the University of Queensland. I also make special mention of the Kurwongbah State School, which had two teams receive honours in the primary school maths/engineering section. The Kurwongbah State School, together with the Strathpine West State School—another school in my electorate—has had a long commitment to this program, having participated in every tournament over the past 10 years.

Finally, I want to pay tribute to the hard work and dedication of the program's State director, Fiona Meyer, who has been involved since the start and who has been instrumental in making the program the success it is today.

Time expired.
