



Speech by

Hon. D. WELLS

MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA

Hansard 23 March 1999

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Anti-bullying Task Force

Hon. D. M. WELLS (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Education) (9.51 a.m.), by leave: Since the appointment of the Anti-bullying Task Force in July last year the following has been achieved. First, more than two hundred workable solutions have been offered by schools to Education Queensland. The task force has selected the best 40 of these school-based anti-bullying programs and has placed them on the departmental intranet. I table a print-out of these "Workable Solutions".

Second, the professional development package entitled Bullying—No Way, which I distributed to nearly 1,300 schools last October, is now being used to provide in-service training for school staff throughout the State. Third, 55 additional behaviour management specialist staff have been appointed. This represents an increase of nearly 17% and the effect of this massive increase in staff able to support school's behaviour management programs will start to be seen this semester.

While the short-term consequences of schools cracking down on bullying might be an increase in short-term suspensions, the long-term effect of the initiatives I have described will be a decrease in suspensions as in each school the line in the sand becomes clearer and the understanding spreads through our schools that bullying will not be tolerated.
