



Speech by

**Hon. D. WELLS**

**MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA**

---

Hansard 25 March 1999

### **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

#### **Youth Action Program**

**Hon. D. M. WELLS** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Education) (9.55 a.m.): by leave: I table an independent report titled Evaluation of the Youth Action Program. The external evaluation, conducted by Colmar Brunton Research, showed overwhelming support from parents and students for the program.

The Youth Action Program was piloted last year in 10 State secondary schools with more than 400 students. It was an initiative of the coalition Government. Indeed, it was one of the better ideas of the honourable member for Merrimac and I am pleased to be able to implement that which the people of Queensland gave him the opportunity merely to imagine. It links schools to programs from Surf Life Saving Queensland, the Royal Life Saving Society Queensland, St John Ambulance Australia, the Air Training Corps, the Australian Army Cadet Corps, the Naval Reserve Cadets, Australian Red Cross, State Emergency Services, Scouts Australia (Queensland) and Guides Queensland.

The independent report found that 99% of parents think the program has been beneficial to their child. Across the State, Youth Action Program students made significant improvements in measured levels on five of the six core attributes of leadership and team building skills—self-reliance, self-esteem, individual responsibility and a sense of community service. The reported overall satisfaction levels with the program were very high. More than 90% of student participants were satisfied with the Youth Action Program and what it had done for them. Benefits to students included an opportunity to participate in an activity that they would not otherwise have had available to them and to take an opportunity to mix with a wide range of people from different backgrounds. Some students have already gained employment as a result of participating in the Youth Action Program or are already serving in community-based units like the State Emergency Service or local surf clubs. The evaluation also found that benefits of participating in the program extended to schools. These included the school enjoying a raised profile in the community, lower truancy levels and a reduction in behaviour problems amongst Youth Action Program students.

The YAP has positively changed the lives of a number of young people and has added an extra dimension to their education. After the success of the 1998 program, it has been expanded in 1999 to a total of 23 Youth Action Program schools across the State, from Thursday Island in the north to Stanthorpe near the southern border. A maximum of 750 students in participating schools are currently preparing to commence Youth Action Program activities for 1999.

---