



Speech by

Hon. D. WELLS

MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA

Hansard 28 April 1999

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Odyssey of the Mind

Hon. D. M. WELLS (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Education) (9.56 a.m.), by leave: A team of students from the Woodridge State High School will soon be attending the Odyssey of the Mind world titles in the United States. There they will think for Australia in a mental contest with other creative students from around the world. I draw the attention of honourable members to the presence in the gallery of those students from the Woodridge State High School.

The team from the Woodridge State High School has been fundraising for some time in a bid to finance a trip to the United States to compete in the Odyssey of the Mind world titles. It is my pleasure here today to inform the House that Education Queensland has agreed to provide \$7,000 needed to help cover the cost of the trip for the team and its coaches. The Honourable Minister responsible for consumer affairs used to teach at that school. The school community has been fundraising for the trip to Knoxville, Tennessee from 26 to 30 May, and they should be congratulated on their efforts.

The Odyssey of the Mind fosters creative thinking and problem solving among students at all levels. Students present solutions to problems from a variety of areas—technical, artistic, cultural, historical, mechanical, engineering and science. By finding creative solutions, students learn many skills, such as working with others, evaluating ideas and making decisions while also developing self-confidence from their experiences.

The students are Eleanor and Katherine Goodall, Christopher Beattie and former students Rebecca Brown and Fredrico Felixberto. The team has already proved its powers for creative thinking and problem solving at an Odyssey of the Mind competition in Newcastle. In Newcastle, the team won first place in their division—high school division—and section—classical—and also won a prestigious creativity award. The particular work that the school did was to create a modern adaptation of Shakespeare's play Twelfth Night.

The team will stay in the residential colleges at the Knoxville University and spend a day with NASA in Florida after the competition. Education Queensland is pleased to be supporting what is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for these students to represent their country. The team will stay in an Odyssey of the Mind village which will house between 15,000 and 17,000 competitors from around the world.

I take the liberty, on behalf of all members, of wishing these students well for their forthcoming odyssey. This occasion does call for a Shakespearean quote. Indeed, it calls for an adaptation from Shakespeare. I choose Macbeth because the Premier is actually a lineal descendant of that particular Scottish monarch and a member of the Macbeth clan. I say to the students at the Woodridge State High School: be bloody, bold and resolute! Laugh to scorn the mental powers of other nations, for none of the US born shall harm Woodridge State High School!

Opposition members interjected.

Mr Schwarten: Out damned spot!

Opposition members interjected.
