



Speech by

**Hon. D. WELLS**

**MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA**

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Hansard 27 May 1999

### EDUCATION WEEK

**Hon. D. M. WELLS** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Education) (7.24 p.m.): For many years Education Week has consistently proved popular with schools and the public alike. It represents an opportunity to put our 1,300 State schools in the spotlight and justifiably celebrate their achievements.

I send many congratulations to the school communities across Queensland that entered into the spirit of the week which, in 1999, was on the theme This Fantastic Century. School communities eagerly took the opportunity to reflect on how education in Queensland has developed during the past 100 years and to look at where it will take our young people in the approaching millennium.

Schools interpreted this challenge with the innovation that we have come to expect from them. Kippa-Ring State School in my own electorate returned to the earliest years of the century with many period costumes and artefacts. Darryl Welsh, a member of the staff of the Kippa-Ring State School, donned a full Light Horse Brigade costume and demonstrated tent pegging, which originated on ancient battlefields and was still used by the Australian Light Horse in the Great War.

Some of our finest musicians put their talent on show with first-class energetic performances in major shopping venues. I saw two quartets and an orchestra in Education Week alone. Gunpowder, one of our smallest schools, held an open day specifically to promote confidence in public education. Many schools used Education Week to recognise and learn from their senior citizens.

It was appropriate that Education Week was also used to announce the School and Community Capital Innovators Scheme, a program that will encourage schools to plan their capital works programs around the needs of their communities and thus drive the capital works dollar further. Schools will be able to bring forward programs that they and their community would like, and put guidelines on the usage of those facilities to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the community. This will cost the Government—

Time expired.

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