



Speech by

GEOFF WILSON

MEMBER FOR FERNY GROVE

Hansard 13 April 1999

STATE SCHOOL LEADERSHIP CAMP

Mr WILSON (Ferny Grove—ALP) (7.10 p.m.): The spirit of public education and the support for public education in Government schools is strong and growing stronger in the electorate of Ferny Grove. I want to tell all members of this Parliament—particularly as they are all here at the moment—about a wonderful initiative that took place in the electorate of Ferny Grove a few weeks ago.

A number of teachers from Government schools in my area organised a leadership camp for the school captains and vice captains. This is the second year that a leadership camp has been organised. The participating schools were the Samford State School, the Mitchelton State School, the Grovely State School, the Ferny Hills State School, the Ferny Grove State School, Patricks Road State School, The Gap State School and a couple of other schools from the area. I acknowledge that The Gap State School is in the electorate of Ashgrove, the seat of my colleague Mr Fouras.

The leadership camp was organised under the authority of the principals and deputy principals of the participating schools. I commend them for their initiative. In particular, I commend Lorelle Holcroft, deputy principal of the Samford State School, and Kay O'Sullivan, deputy principal of The Gap State School, for taking lead roles in organising the camp. But they, of course, worked as a team with other deputy principals. All are to be commended for their involvement.

Honourable members might ask what is a leadership camp. Well, for two days about 35 young Year 7 students gathered in the auditorium of the Ferny Hills State School. The students' program comprised the following subjects or sessions. On the first morning, the Wednesday, the first session involved registration. The second session was a familiarisation session with the students getting to know each other and the school principals and deputy principals involved. The first major session dealt with team building and was led by Kay O'Sullivan and Lorelle Holcroft. The next session dealt with the roles of school captains and vice-captains. The camp then moved on to a session involving handling peer pressure and working with adults. These two programs were led by Mr John Greedy of the Behaviour Management Pal Program. Mr Greedy is well known for lecturing in this area. The final session for the first day dealt with meeting procedures. This session was conducted by Judith Laverty of Forum. I felt privileged to be able to sit in on that session. I commend Judith Laverty for the way in which she ran the program.

On the second day the early sessions involved greeting special guests, public speaking and how to overcome nerves. These sessions were conducted by Vicki Wilson, a Queensland celebrity sports person. Another session concerned the subject "What is leadership?" This session was conducted by Mr Ralph Pirozzo, a well-known presenter in this area. Mr Pirozzo dealt with leadership and team building.

I want to publicly thank the presenters for their time and dedication to this incredibly important program. I commend the organisers and the presenters for maximising the students' active participation in each of the sessions. I express my appreciation for the opportunity to sit in for one of the sessions and to speak briefly to the students on a member of Parliament's view on leadership. Congratulations to all the students taking part: well done. We look forward to seeing them grow into mature senior students and adults, willing and able to show leadership in their schools and in the broader community. I look forward to the camp being repeated in future years.

I acknowledge that we see here a generational shift because when those of my generation—young as I might still be—and other generations were going through primary school we did not have the benefit of this type of special program. This is a program which acknowledges the importance of leadership within the school community. The expectations that are placed upon students, even those as young as Year 7 students, are far greater than they were in my day.

Time expired.
