



Speech by

GORDON NUTTALL

MEMBER FOR SANDGATE

Hansard 10 March 1999

SANDGATE STATE HIGH SCHOOL

Mr NUTTALL (Sandgate—ALP) (10.22 a.m.): The recent debate on drugs affords me the opportunity to speak of a positive program currently being run in my electorate. During 1998, Sandgate State High School and the Queensland Police Service, through Senior Sergeant Paul Fitzpatrick of the Sandgate police, have been working together to promote drug and alcohol awareness. The principal, the two deputy principals and other staff, as well as four senior students, worked very hard both in support and work effort with respect to these issues.

During the early part of last year the students approached Senior Sergeant Fitzpatrick for assistance. As a consequence and with the assistance of the Queensland police media section, a press release was issued advising of the student and police involvement in addressing the issues of drugs and alcohol and their effect on youth. As a result of this exposure, the Courier-Mail published an article relating to the students. The 11 AM program on Channel 7 interviewed the students and Channel 10's Totally Wild program did two segments on the work they were involved with. A local radio station also interviewed some of the students. I understand also that a film group was examining and considering the contents of that material and information to see if some of it could be used in its 1999 production.

The school, the students, Drug Arm and Senior Sergeant Fitzpatrick conducted two public awareness information sessions in May and August for parents, students and members of the Sandgate community. Further, with the participation of the school and Senior Sergeant Fitzpatrick, it is hoped that all classes at Sandgate State High School will receive a drug and alcohol harm minimisation lecture before the end of this school year. Some of the current Year 12 students are continuing the good work commenced in 1998. It is very enlightening and encouraging to see and hear of such enthusiasm by the youth of Sandgate State High School.
