



Speech by

JULIE ATTWOOD

MEMBER FOR MOUNT OMMANEY

Hansard 1 December 1999

MILPERA STATE HIGH SCHOOL

Mrs ATTWOOD (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (10.23 a.m.): Last Wednesday night, the Milpera State High School was awarded the Queensland Multicultural Service Award 1999 (School Category). Hundreds of residents from the Mount Ommaney electorate have attended this fine educational facility over the years and many of these young adults have contributed greatly to the prosperity of this State. This has occurred despite the mean-spirited Commonwealth Government attitude to educational pursuits and despite the lack of adequate financial support provided by the Commonwealth to these mainly refugee children.

An increasing number of temporary students require ESL services on arrival in Queensland. Many of these students, or their parents, are not eligible for the new arrival component of ESL funding. Many of these temporary students from non-English speaking backgrounds have been, or are, refugees from East Timor. While attending this school, these students have the same language and settlement needs as permanent students who are eligible for new arrival funding.

Sadly, the same level of support from the Commonwealth is not forthcoming. This is another example of the Commonwealth shifting costs, which rightly belong to the Commonwealth, onto the State. I am sure all members would join me in condemning the Commonwealth for abrogating its responsibility.

Hundreds of ESL students have attended this school over the years. I have visited the school on many occasions. I have seen how hard the students work and the efforts that teachers put into the educational wellbeing of the students. My colleague the member for Sandgate has provided tremendous support to the teachers and supporters of the school, and I commend him for his effort. I wish to publicly congratulate the school, the teachers and their supporters for achieving sufficient recognition in order to obtain this prestigious award.
