



Speech by

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MEMBER FOR MOUNT OMMANEY

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VIETNAMESE COMMUNITY

Mrs ATTWOOD (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (11.03 p.m.): Representing the Premier, the Honourable Peter Beattie, MLA, at a presentation to Vietnamese students on Easter Saturday, I was impressed with the calibre of these young people. Their achievements in the academic field further displays the commitment, dedication and hard work of this community.

The Vietnamese Professional Association is very proud of these young people's achievements in fields such as engineering, business, science and information technology. This association is already supporting students and assisting them to find careers in their fields of study. They will be quite competitive in today's labour market and will assist us in capturing a greater share of the Asian trade.

The value of education cannot be understated, and it is the means by which these young people will reach their life goals. The Vietnamese community actively promotes participation in the higher education system and ensures that their valuable learning and skills are put to good use. There is some truth in the philosophy that if one is doing a job that one enjoys, it is not work at all but a pleasurable pastime. However, any study requires a certain amount of hard work and a commitment that is a means to a successful future. I applaud the achievements of these graduates and their families who have had to overcome language and cultural barriers while they were obtaining their goals.

Vietnamese women number many among those obtaining qualifications and serving their communities. Late last year it was a great honour for me to be invited to launch the 10th anniversary magazine of the Vietnamese Women's Association of Queensland. I have enjoyed the many interactions that I have had with the members of this association since I met them at a meeting about two years ago. The energy, vitality and enthusiasm that this group displays are the qualities that impressed me the most. The women in the Vietnamese community are unique in their ability to endure, to stick it out during the tough times, to care for their families and their elderly relatives, for their determination and strength to achieve a better quality of life and, above all, for their devotion to Australia. One thing that I value above all else is honesty and integrity. These women value and display these qualities to me, setting aside any barriers and baggage that we carry and looking at what is underneath all of that.

The magazine exhibits the qualities of Vietnamese women and is an easily readable account of their valuable achievements and celebrations over the past decade. Some of these achievements include supporting their fellow women by providing English classes, advice on workplace health and safety and mental health, and family relationships support. The Queensland Government acknowledges and supports the work and commitment of this women's association as an integral link in our plan for all Queenslanders. I congratulate them on their achievements. As one of the 10 women representatives in this Labor Government, I am committed to enhancing the future of this association and supporting a women's point of view.
