



Speech by

**KAREN STRUTHERS**

**MEMBER FOR ARCHERFIELD**

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### LITERACY IN SCHOOLS

**Ms STRUTHERS** (Archerfield—ALP) (10.02 a.m.): The campaign to improve literacy in our schools is one that must continue in earnest and I acknowledge the firm commitment that the Minister, the Honourable Dean Wells, has to this cause. I know also that the Federal Minister, Dr David Kemp, is a newly enlisted supporter of the cause. However, many teachers feel under attack from the Federal Minister. They feel as though they are being blamed for the literacy problem.

I put on the record today that I am very impressed with the positive educational programs and teaching methods being used in the schools in my area. Not only are the basics being covered well but also the dedicated school staff and parent helpers put in a lot of extra miles.

Very positive results are being achieved through the Reading Recovery Program in primary schools in my area. Grand Avenue State School has just completed training for volunteer helpers in its Support-a-Reader program. Students at Algester State School recently attended a writer's camp where Ian Calder, a former writer and associate producer of Agro's Cartoon Connection, shared his skills with the kids.

Full marks also go to Greg Burns and his staff and parent volunteers at Watson Road State School. They are putting lots of energy into improving the literacy and numeracy skills of students in their school. It is a small school in a low socioeconomic area. One of the stand-out features of Greg and his staff is that they treat the kids with a great deal of humanity. This is the key ingredient for educational success.

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