



Speech by

PETER WELLINGTON

MEMBER FOR NICKLIN

Hansard 18 August 1999

SCHOOL UNIFORM BILL

Mr WELLINGTON (Nicklin—IND) (10.56 p.m.): I rise to speak in support of the Opposition's School Uniform Bill. I reached this decision after consulting with school P & C associations in my region. I have received written submissions from the following P & C school associations: Yandina State School P & C Association, Eudlo State School P & C Association, Mapleton State School P & C Association, Bli Bli State School P & C Association, Kenilworth State School P & C Association, Maleny State High School P & C Association, Beerwah State High School P & C Association and Delaneys Creek State School P & C Association. I now table a copy of these submissions for the benefit of members of the House.

I specifically draw the attention of members to the detailed survey conducted by the Kenilworth State School P & C Association. I am informed that approximately 45% of the school parents replied to the survey. The Bli Bli State School P & C Association advised me that the reasons for their association's support for the new Bill were that it will build school community pride, enable children to be proud of their school, break down the discrimination barriers and let all children feel equal. It meets the sun-safe requirements that help to prevent skin cancer. In relation to safety aspects, it is easier for the staff to identify outsiders on school grounds at a glance and, whilst on school outings, makes identifying school students easier.

The Yandina State School P & C committee decided unanimously to request the Government to pass legislation that enforces the wearing of uniforms in State schools. The Mapleton State School P & C Association stressed the need for the school community to have the legal backing that it needed to develop and apply its own individual dress codes. The Eudlo State School P & C Association advised me that it did not support the Opposition's proposed Bill and preferred to support the view of the Minister for Education on dress codes.

I do not propose to detail all of the submissions that I have received. Suffice to say that I am very proud of the school P & C communities in my region that have responded to me by letter and by telephone over recent months in relation to this matter. There is no doubt in my mind that most school communities in my region are seeking leadership from the Parliament on this matter so that their school communities can move forward with confidence and certainty. Accordingly, I urge all members to support the Bill currently before the House, and I place on record my appreciation to all the school P & C associations that assisted me in making this decision. I commend the Bill to the House.
