



Speech by

PETER WELLINGTON

MEMBER FOR NICKLIN

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DRUG ABUSE

Mr WELLINGTON (Nicklin—IND) (10.12 a.m.): While I was overseas on the recent Parliamentary Information Technology Trade Delegation, I took time out to meet with law enforcement officers attached to the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division in Colombia. We discussed methods of responding to drug abuse in our communities and how to build better relationships between police and the public.

I now table for the benefit of members and, in particular the Minister for Police and the Minister for Education, a copy of their Drug Abuse Resistance Education Program. This is a joint project of the Los Angeles Police Department and the Los Angeles School Department, aimed at preventing drug abuse in children and youth from kindergarten to Grade 12.

In this regard, I would like to place on record my sincere appreciation to Special Agent Fayette Watkins and Special Agent McAllister for their willingness to exchange programs and ideas. The officers also advised that every year they have a "respect for the law day" which, I have been informed, has proved very, very successful in building positive bridges between police and the public.

The building of bridges and the willingness of people from different countries around the world to exchange ideas for the good of all is one of the direct benefits that I have experienced as a result of the Premier formalising the sister State relationship between Queensland and South Carolina. I urge the respective Ministers to have some of their staff evaluate this Drug Abuse Resistance Education Program and assess its possible suitability to Queensland.
