



Speech by

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Hansard 27 May 1999

WISHART STATE SCHOOL PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION

Mr REEVES (Mansfield—ALP) (7.20 p.m.): Last week I had the pleasure of being one of the judges at the Wishart State School public speaking competition. One of the other judges was Mr Craig Sherrin, a former member for Mansfield, who helped to initiate this public speaking competition. For the past three years his wife, Lyndelle Sherrin, a teacher at the school, has taken over the responsibility of running the competition.

The public speaking competition has been improved and refined from year to year. Last year, a Children's Choice section was added to encourage purposeful listening for students in Years 4 to 7. The students are given a list of speakers and the criteria used by the judges. They select the student who they believe best meets the criteria. Children naturally tend to choose speakers who have a lot of audience appeal and use humour, so the Children's Choice award gives the students a chance to have their say. The appointed judges look at all the criteria, so their assessment is more of an overall assessment.

Merit certificates are awarded to the two children who are chosen to represent their classes in the preliminary finals that are held in the library in front of all year levels. Honour certificates are presented to those children whose speeches are judged to be of high enough quality to proceed to the finals.

This year's finalists were: Year 1, Katie Tyler; Years 2 and 3, Stuart Davis; Years 4 and 5, Caitlin Lock; and Years 6 and 7, Nerina Sherrin, who is Craig and Lyndelle's daughter—Craig was not judging that section. The overall winner was Nerina Sherrin. The overall winner of the Children's Choice award was Jonathon Row; for Years 4 and 5 it was Ash Nath; and for Years 6 and 7 it was Jonathon Row.

This Parliament has a good future if many of the public speaking abilities that I saw last week are replicated here one day. I was never more impressed with the ability of those children than when a Year 1 child stood in front of 600 students and talked for two minutes. In fact, we all thought that she had finished, but she quickly retorted that she had not. It was a great effort by all concerned.
