



Speech by

PHIL REEVES

MEMBER FOR MANSFIELD

Hansard 24 November 1999

SETON COLLEGE

Mr REEVES (Mansfield—ALP) (10.03 a.m.): I rise today to speak about Seton College in my electorate. Seton College is a Catholic co-educational high school that has a maximum enrolment of 210 students. Seton caters for young people at all levels of ability, although their emphasis is with students with special needs. The more advanced are given consideration by being placed in accelerated progress of learning. Young people who have fallen behind in primary years and whose difficulties constantly impair their efforts to learn and make progress are given particular emphasis. Smaller classes allow students to develop in confidence and gain skills for future study and training in post-compulsory education.

Last Friday I had the pleasure of attending the last school assembly for their very first Year 12 class. The school has a long history but until 1998 went only to Year 10. I had much pleasure in giving the inaugural Phil Reeves Trophy for consistent effort and cooperation to Tim Pascoe. Remarkably, Tim has been going to Seton College for five years and has never missed a day's school. The graduation class of six, including Tim, were Robert Casey, Matthew Jarvis, Emma McMurtrie, Tim Pascoe, Brett Simpson and Suzanne Sykes.

The assembly, being the last of the full school, was also used to pay tribute to Rudy Goosen, their departing principal. In five years, Rudy has transformed the school in not only an operational sense but also the entire physical structure. To put it bluntly, five years ago the school looked like a leftover from a war zone. Now there is a first-class learning centre. The drive, skills and motivation of Rudy, alongside the P & F and staff, have totally changed the school for the better.

I had great delight in informing Rudy of the funding approved for the first stage of the project, the home economic centre announced last week. Now Rudy can leave the school with the knowledge that his dream has come to reality. Rudy, I am happy to say, is going to my old school, Clairvaux McKillop College in the Mount Gravatt electorate. I am sure he will be an asset for the college after taking over from the long-serving principal who is retiring, Pat Condon. The Seton community should all be very proud of what they have achieved, particularly the young people who graduated on Friday and their families.
