



Speech by

**Mr TERRY SULLIVAN**

**MEMBER FOR CHERMSIDE**

---

Hansard 22 July 1999

### **UNITED NATIONS YOUTH ASSOCIATION**

**Mr SULLIVAN** (Chermside—ALP) (10.24 a.m.): In April this year, senior students from Queensland schools gathered at the University of Queensland under the auspices of the United Nations Youth Association—UNYA—to discuss issues affecting various countries from around the world. The young adults had to approach the debates, not from their own perspective, but from the viewpoint of the particular nation that they were representing. From this gathering, and from a human rights conference held last year, 10 students were selected to represent Queensland at the United Nations Youth Conference held in Melbourne three weeks ago.

I refer to a report written by Mr Matthew Rogers, president of UNYA Qld, with a special sense of pride, as members will shortly appreciate. Mr Rogers states—

"... this year's Queensland delegation was, without a doubt, the most outstanding group of young Australians I have ever seen. Bright, enthusiastic, dedicated to their task and an inspiration to others, the ten delegates that we (Hapreet Kalsi, Matthew Thornburn and I) led to Melbourne represented Queensland, their schools and themselves with pride.

Throughout the week, these fine young adults: Anna Byrne, Ravi Chandra, Danielle Cohen, Tom Cotterill, Kim Hajek, Kenneth Macleod, Sarah Mason, Jon Prikyl, Dominika Soszka and James Sullivan played an active role in the four main parts of the conference. There was another, more formal recognition of the strength of our delegation. That recognition came with the selection of three of our delegation, Danielle, Ravi and James, to join 12 other young Australians at The Hague International Model United Nations. "

At the end of the Melbourne conference, awards were presented for excellence and speaking ability. Queensland's James Sullivan shared the top award, the Wilkinson Award, with Victorian delegate, Hannah Neville. As junior ambassador and deputy ambassador, they have been chosen to speak on behalf of Australia's youth at the international convention in The Hague.

As a member of Parliament and as a grateful parent, I wish to thank the UNYA organisers, together with teachers such as Father John Boyd-Boland and Mr Mark Taylor from Padua College, Kedron, for the encouragement they have given our youth. I am certain that every member of the House will join me in wishing all 15 Australian delegates from all the States every success as they represent the youth of Australia at the international United Nations convention.

---