



Speech by

**Mr D. BRISKEY**

**MEMBER FOR CLEVELAND**

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Hansard 23 August 2000

**APPROPRIATION BILL, ESTIMATES COMMITTEE D**

**Mr BRISKEY** (Cleveland—ALP) (4.33 p.m.): I am pleased to speak in this Estimates debate. I wish to say a few words about the issue raised by the previous speaker, namely, the new North Beaudesert school. As the honourable member would be aware, the department has undertaken a demographic study of the area and has found that the demographic projections at this stage do not show the need for a new school. That is why there will not be any new school and the funding for a new school is not provided in this Budget. There will be a need for a school, but not in the next couple of years. The honourable member understands that we cannot build schools around the State where they are not required. The needs are greater in other parts of the State. The honourable member understands that. If the demographic studies indicate that the numbers are not there, the honourable member must understand and surely should accept that. We are also waiting for information from the council flowing from a benchmark development sequence so that we can decide the appropriate location of the new school.

The 2000-01 Education budget will further advance this Government's endeavours to provide Queensland schoolchildren and their families with the best education system. This budget is all about delivering equity and providing quality education that meets the individual needs of students—delivering regardless of where a student lives and regardless of a student's family circumstances or level of ability. It is this basic philosophy that sets the Beattie Labor Government apart from members opposite.

Under the Beattie Labor Government our education system is about equity and opportunity. Under the Beattie Labor Government our education system is about what a student can and does achieve, not about what hurdles they fail to jump. Where there are impediments to a Queensland student achieving, the Beattie Labor Government will work to remove those impediments or provide students with the tools they need to meet the challenges head-on.

Under the former Government of those opposite the focus of the State education system was on management. I am sure most honourable members would remember the discredited and unfair Leading Schools program that the honourable member for Merrimac brought into the State under his leadership in Education. The Leading Schools program was about supporting those that delivered according to the coalition formula. It was about money first and foremost. Schools were rewarded for delivering good financial plans. As long as the books balanced, the benefits would flow to the principals and the community. We all know that some communities have a greater capacity to deliver than others.

In some communities where there are economic and social problems and where there are less obvious opportunities that can flow from a solid education the outcomes from those schools are sometimes less than those from a school in a more well-off community. Some Aboriginal communities present a special challenge. This budget allows us to continue to address the factors that impede the educational experiences of indigenous children.

There is a clear argument for greater funding, not less, for schools that fail to achieve. The fact is that we all win if the children in our schools today achieve to the highest level possible. The children in our schools today are tomorrow's leaders. No longer do our leaders need to be middle-aged white Anglo-Saxon men. Leaders come in all types. Tomorrow's leaders will

increasingly be women. A number will be young people. Ideally, some of tomorrow's leaders will come from those communities experiencing the challenges that I have just spoken of. Our education system has to deliver the solid foundations necessary for the Queensland children of today to become tomorrow's leaders.

The 2000-01 Budget is about equity and renewal, equality of opportunity and community renewal. This Budget contains money for secondary school renewal, which will see rejuvenation of many schools around the State. Those schools that have been approved under the program to date have all worked with their local communities and come up with a range of innovative proposals that will rejuvenate their schools.

Time expired.

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