



Speech by

**Mr D. BRISKEY**

**MEMBER FOR CLEVELAND**

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Hansard 17 October 2000

#### **WORLD TEACHERS DAY**

**Mr BRISKEY** (Cleveland—ALP) (7.15 p.m.): This evening I rise to say thankyou to a group of professionals in our society who undertake the most important job in our society—teaching. I hope that all honourable members will join with me in celebrating World Teachers Day on 27 October. Unfortunately, we will not be in the House on that day, but I am sure that all honourable members will celebrate with me and thank those teachers who have touched their lives.

World Teachers Day is a UNESCO initiative launched in 1994 to celebrate the world's largest and most important job and to highlight the excellent work of classroom teachers. Excellence in teaching can be measured by teachers' seeming innate understanding that all students are special and that they all have special needs to be met. Students come from a range of cultures within our diverse Queensland community.

Central to the role of all teachers are five principles of learning and teaching. Effective learning and teaching is founded on an understanding of the learner. Effective learning and teaching requires active construction of meaning. Effective learning and teaching enhances and is enhanced by a supportive and challenging environment. Effective learning and teaching is enhanced through worthwhile learning partnerships. Effective learning and teaching shapes and responds to social and cultural contexts.

Understanding the learner is a role at which teachers excel. When teachers present a lesson using different strategies and through different media, they cater for the multiple learning styles of children. When teachers integrate children's ideas into a lesson, they are catering for the interests of the learner. When teachers recognise and cater for the intellectual, emotional, social, physical, ethical and spiritual needs of students, they are providing the foundations for developing active and informed citizens. By understanding the learner, teachers are able to help students actively construct meaning. When special education teachers plan cooking activities, they enable students to participate in a variety of formal and informal social and cultural interactions. When primary teachers sit down one to one with students to explore their writing, they are helping students reflect critically on their own knowledge, action, processes and assumptions. When teachers provide a supportive and challenging environment, they are enhancing the learning and teaching processes. When teachers visit museums, parks and environmental centres, they provide experiences that use schools and their wider communities as contexts for learning. When teachers take time during evenings and holidays to cooperatively plan, implement and evaluate programs, they are providing continuity of learning.

Developing worthwhile partnerships is integral to developing excellence in teaching. Today, classroom teachers are leading the way. When teachers talk to parents about their child's achievements, they are reinforcing the notion that all parties have a stake in a student's learning. When special education teachers develop individual education plans, they are showing how important it is to have the support of the teachers, parents and students to achieve goals. When teachers develop intervention activities for students at risk, they are sharing the responsibility for the outcomes of that student.

Helping students to engage in changing societal and social contexts shows how the teachers of Queensland want to develop active citizens. When learners experience classroom

practices that recognise their diversity of gender, ethnicity, ability and culture, students see teachers developing themes and activities that are inclusive of all. When teachers expose students to the skills of debating, discussing and inquiring, they are developing skills in students that will allow them to challenge discrimination. The multiple roles that these educators undertake only further reinforce Queensland's vision of contributing to a Smart State.

Later this month, as I said, I hope that all honourable members will help to celebrate World Teachers Day with me. Our society owes our teachers a debt of thanks, recognition and support. The nurturing of children is the foundation for the continual improvement of our modern world.

Time expired.

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