



Speech by

Mr D. BRISKEY

MEMBER FOR CLEVELAND

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STATE SCHOOLS

Mr BRISKEY (Cleveland—ALP) (10.27 a.m.): I invite all honourable members to join me in congratulating Queensland State schools. Many of their achievements are truly remarkable and are worth repeating. In this month alone, Queensland State school students from Charters Towers, Wynnum, Miles, Chinchilla, Goondiwindi, Bundaberg, Mount Isa, Johnstone, Yeppoon, Ravenshoe and Weipa have won prizes and accolades in a range of community, academic and artistic competitions.

Weipa North State School, which I had the good fortune to visit recently, is just one example. The school has recently taken the inaugural Keep Australia Beautiful title and has been named far-north Queensland's greenest and healthiest school. Within weeks of that achievement, the school won the Elgas Community Action Award and the Bismark Good Food, Health and Canteen Award. What an achievement for a school that contends with all the challenges presented by a remote location, as well as having a mix of students from a broad range of backgrounds! Seventy per cent of students at the school are of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander background. Many of them come in from nearby Napranum. This is a school that makes a strong contribution to the fabric of local community life. This is a school that has adjusted well to the circumstances with which it is confronted.

The school's success in the awards was based on school tidiness, a strong degree of community interaction and cooperation, the community's strength in the face of a range of adverse situations, the creative use of communication techniques and the promotion of the benefits of eating healthy food. This school is an integral part of the local community. This school is the community. Community life in Weipa is centred around activities at the school. This is a school that works well with what it has. I take this opportunity to congratulate Weipa North State School on its achievements. I thank the teachers for their dedication and their caring attitude towards their students.

Time expired.
