



Speech by

Hon. D. WELLS

MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA

Hansard 31 May 2000

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
Learning and Development Foundation

Hon. D. M. WELLS (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Education) (9.57 a.m.), by leave: To become the Smart State, we need a smart work force. Yesterday I launched Education Queensland's new Learning and Development Foundation. Its aim is to ensure that our work force has every opportunity to renew and enhance their skills. At this stage, the foundation is aimed at the 1,600 public servants in district offices and in central office. These are the people who support our teachers in delivering the best possible educational outcomes in our schools. In the future, the foundation will also include the State's 32,000 teachers. However, the Queensland Teachers Union's current industrial action has precluded the involvement of teachers from progressing at this stage. However, as the honourable members for Tablelands and Barambah would no doubt tell us, there is no use crying over spilt milk. Once the teachers' enterprise bargaining dispute is concluded, they will be able to become active participants in learning and development opportunities provided by the foundation.

The foundation, which initially has \$1.5m in funds, will train staff to deliver the objectives of the Education Queensland 2010 strategic plan. The foundation has established a web site and will create a foundation on line by September/October 2000. Both these information technology tools will allow programs, modules and services to be accessed at a local level via a learning laboratory approach. This virtual capability will ensure equity of access throughout the State and complement the more traditional face-to-face programs.

The most important feature of the foundation is that it will represent the vesting of a new entitlement to employees. Every employee will have an annual entitlement to professional development. Professional development and training will cease to be a favour bestowed at the whim of the employer and become part of the rights of workers employed in Education Queensland.
