



Speech by

Hon. ANNA BLIGH

MEMBER FOR SOUTH BRISBANE

Hansard 21 June 2001

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Mr A. Druery

Hon. A. M. BLIGH (South Brisbane—ALP) (Minister for Education) (9.47 a.m.), by leave: Over the past 45 years, many members of this House and members of the public will have had the pleasure of working with Mr Alan Druery during his time as a teacher and more recently as the executive director of the Queensland Catholic Education Commission. It is with regret that I inform the House that, after such a long period of dedication to quality education in Queensland, next month Mr Druery will be retiring. As many members will know, Mr Druery has had a distinguished career committed to educating young people in the Catholic system.

Mr Horan: He taught me.

Ms BLIGH: There are indeed a number of members in this House who had the pleasure of being taught by Mr Druery.

Alan practised as a teacher for 14 years until 1970, when he became the executive officer for the Archdiocesan Education Council. He then moved to become the secretary of the Queensland Catholic Education Office and in 1983 rose to become its director. After five years he was elevated to chairman of the Queensland Catholic Education Commission and in 1996 was made the executive director. It is from this position that Alan Druery will soon be retiring. I am sure that all members will join with me in expressing our thanks to him for his outstanding contribution to education in this state.

The Beattie government has always welcomed the involvement of all sectors of the community in the education of our young people. The role of the Catholic education sector is well documented in this regard. The qualities that have characterised Mr Druery's tenure have been strong advocacy, commitment to reform, generous and constructive debate, and a constant focus on what is best for our children.

On behalf of the government, I thank Mr Druery for the part he has played in securing the high regard in which our teachers are held, and for the standards to which our children are educated. He has shown exemplary leadership in achieving these outcomes in areas such as teacher registration, promoting collaboration with universities to secure the quality of teacher education, and in promoting accreditation and accountability for non-state schools.

Order of Australia, Fellow of the Australian Council for Educational Administration, Australian College of Education Queensland Chapter Medal, and a Queensland Premier's Millennium Award for Excellence—these are just some of the accolades he has received in his career. One of his most recent contributions was through his membership of the Webb committee of review into non-state schools' accreditation and accountability. As Minister for Education, I am personally grateful for Mr Druery's partnership in this portfolio.

Tonight at 7 p.m. the Director-General of Education and I are hosting a small reception in the annexe of Parliament House in honour of Mr Druery to thank him for his contribution to the Queensland community and to wish him well in his retirement. All members are invited to join me at this event to recognise Alan Druery's contribution.

Although Mr Druery will be missed by his many supporters in Catholic education, he has left Queensland's—and Australia's—education communities a permanent legacy of rigour and reform. On

behalf of the Queensland government, it gives me great pleasure to pay tribute to Mr Alan Druery and wish him well in his retirement.
