



Speech by

**Hon. ANNA BLIGH**

**MEMBER FOR SOUTH BRISBANE**

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Hansard 8 August 2001

### **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

#### **Goodwill Games; Education Queensland Showcase Awards for Excellence**

**Hon. A. M. BLIGH** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Minister for Education) (9.49 a.m.), by leave: Excellence in all forms of endeavour is what the Smart State is all about. We invest in excellence because we expect excellence, and that is what we all get in return. In Queensland this month there is no more obvious celebration of excellence than the Goodwill Games. Queensland schools have long been known as centres of excellence in both academia and sport. So when the Goodwill Games was destined for Brisbane, we always knew that our children would be up there sharing the spotlight in some way.

The partnership began when Chief Executive Campbell Rose met with Education Queensland to explore how our students could be involved. Campbell's team, through Project Goodwill and in partnership with Education Queensland, opened up this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to students across the state by releasing 50,000 free tickets to the Games' athletics events. Queensland Rail also supported those students with reduced long-distance fares and free travel on the Brisbane Citytrain network.

When we were contacted about just how difficult it would be for some students in our most remote schools to share in the Games, once again, the Goodwill team, Education Queensland and Queensland Rail put their heads together and came up with a plan to offer 150 free Games tickets and accessible travel to some 90 students from remote areas so that they, too, can attend the Games. Many Queensland school students will also be involved in the opening event on 28 August, either in the dance cast, the choir or the orchestra. Of course, a couple of Queensland school students will be competing in the Games.

Tomorrow it will be just 20 days to the Goodwill Games—a perfect time to start the countdown. This day also coincides with the state finals of the Education Queensland Showcase Awards for Excellence. Both are fine examples of excellence and both will be celebrated in the Queen Street Mall tomorrow around lunchtime. Showcase is all about rewarding schools for the things they do that produce better educational outcomes for our students. Tomorrow night I will be welcoming the 12 state finalist schools to Brisbane City Hall for the gala presentation, and six schools will be named state winners and receive development grants of \$30,000. The highly commended schools will receive grants of \$10,000.

The 12 state finalists are the Andergrove State School, Birdsville State School, Cairns School of Distance Education, Calliope State School, Chancellor State School, Coorparoo Secondary College, Mackay North State High School, Marsden State High School, Milpera State High School, Southport State School, Stanthorpe State High School and Wynnum North State High School. Badu Island State School and the Mooloolaba group of schools also received a special commendation.

What sets Showcase apart from other reward-type programs is that these are proven programs that are already up and running in our schools with proven results. It is nice to be able to hand out a cheque for \$30,000, but it is even more rewarding to know that the money will be put to the best possible use in developing those programs even further. The 12 state finalist schools are on display right now in the foyer of Education House at 30 Mary Street. I encourage members to drop in and check out what some of our state schools have to offer.

I also encourage members to visit the mall during lunchtime tomorrow if they have a chance where they will be treated to a fantastic display of gymnastics by students from Belmont and Holland Park State Schools and a special appearance by Holland Park State High School's own Goodwill Games athlete, gymnast Danielle Kelly. What the Goodwill Games and Showcase have in common is a commitment to the best for our children. So it is an exciting time to be part of the Smart State.

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