



Speech by

**Hon. ANNA BLIGH**

**MEMBER FOR SOUTH BRISBANE**

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Hansard 6 December 2001

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Professor R. Webb, Griffith University**

**Hon. A. M. BLIGH** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Minister for Education) (9.43 a.m.), by leave: It gives me great pleasure today to pay tribute to the Vice-Chancellor of Griffith University, Professor Roy Webb. As many members would be aware, Professor Webb is retiring shortly after holding the position of Vice-Chancellor of Griffith University since 1985. During those 16 years Roy has overseen the growth of Griffith University from a single campus institution of some 4,000 students in 1985 to a multicampus institution of 26,000 students and 3,000 staff today.

Professor Webb has made an immense contribution to a range of bodies at state, national and international levels. Amid a truly impressive and full professional career, Roy has participated in a number of important policy and other forums including the following: the Australian Vice-Chancellors Committee; the Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre; the Conference of Queensland Vice-Chancellors; the Australian-American Educational Fulbright Foundation; the Committee for the Advancement of University Teaching; the Committee for the Economic Development of Australia; the board of the Business/Higher Education Round Table; and the board of the Association of Southeast Asian Institutions of Higher Learning. More recently, he has made a significant contribution to the future provision of quality arrangements in the non-government schooling sector in Queensland.

Professor Webb chaired a major review of accreditation and accountability arrangements for non-state schools in Queensland. The report of this review underpinned new legislation which was passed earlier this year to provide quality standards and accountability for non-state schools. Roy has also agreed to chair the new board that will oversee the implementation of this new approach to ensure quality standards within the non-state schooling sector in Queensland. Thankfully, the talents of Professor Roy Webb will not be lost to us as he continues to make an important contribution to Queensland education in his new role.

On behalf of the many students—and I know some of them are members of this House—who have passed through the corridors of Griffith University, I wish to thank Roy Webb for his stewardship of Griffith over many years. Roy is first and foremost a first-class educator and has made an outstanding contribution to higher education in Queensland and nationally over a long and illustrious career.

As members are no doubt aware, Dr Glyn Davis will replace Professor Roy Webb as Vice-Chancellor of Griffith University. I would like to place on record my respect and that of our government for Dr Davis and his personal commitment to education. I am confident that he will ably continue the traditions established by Roy Webb that have placed Griffith University at the forefront of higher education in Australia and internationally. I am joining Professor Webb tonight, along with his many friends and colleagues, at a special dinner in his honour. I am sure all members will join with me in thanking him and wishing him and his wife, Heather, much happiness and prosperity in the years ahead.

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