



Speech by

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MEMBER FOR SPRINGWOOD

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SHAILER PARK, LIQUOR OUTLET; INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Ms STONE (Springwood—ALP) (12.21 p.m.): I have two issues I wish to speak on today. Firstly, I wish to table a non-conforming petition by 658 residents objecting to a proposed licensed liquor bottle shop, a bottle shop that is seeking permission to open from 8.30 a.m. to midnight. It would be located across the road from Shailer Park State High School, Shailer Park State School, St Matthews school, the Cornubia Park Sports Centre, Cornubia adventure playground, and right behind this bottle shop would be a child-care centre. I support these petitioners in their objection. I might also add that, in close proximity, there are at least three other licensed liquor bottle shops. A bottle shop which opens at 8.30 a.m. is not what the people of Shailer Park, Loganholme or Cornubia want for their local community. I ask the minister to consider these people's objections.

The second issue I wish to speak on today is some innovation that is taking place in Springwood. Last Monday I had the pleasure of opening the Shailer Park State High School multimedia centre. The centre consists of 20 networked computers in each of the two rooms, along with a dedicated video-editing computer linked to a permanently installed data projector. Students can edit both digital and analogue videos and display their projects to large groups of students. The range of peripherals and software available to the students is quite overwhelming. The school has implemented innovative practices for both staff and students, and I acknowledge the encouragement of these innovative practices by the principal, Mr John Corbett, and his commitment to information technology and telecommunications in the school.

Virtual schooling allows students to continue studies in Japanese and economics. They use a range of ICT applications in accessing this service that is available through the dedicated study room that includes four computers, audio conferencing equipment and subject-specific peripherals. I had the pleasure of watching both the Japanese class and an economics student participate in virtual schooling. A teacher in another part of the state was teaching the students. It seemed incredible to me, yet it was so exciting.

Science, technology and knowledge are advancing faster than ever before in human history, and information technology and telecommunications is rapidly expanding, offering new opportunities and pathways to successful and rewarding careers. It is through the implementation of centres such as the one at Shailer Park State High School that students will be encouraged to make the most of these exciting opportunities.

It was not that long ago that many people said computers were for geeks. Let me tell members that that is a myth. Information technology and telecommunications is limited only by our imagination, and the students of Shailer Park State High School are letting their imaginations run wild. They put on a very creative and professional display for their opening. It is important that education opportunities are responsive to the changing needs of our society and provide our young people with the skills and knowledge necessary for life, work and further education and training. This is certainly taking place at Shailer Park State High School.

Later that afternoon, I saw some more creative education opportunities at the Logan TAFE Springwood campus. This campus is like no other TAFE college. It does not have the traditional classroom and teacher. What it does have is a number of computers and an extensive range of courses in information technology. It does not have traditional class times. The course is available whenever the students are. It does not have semesters. The whole course is interactive and self-paced.

It uses dynamic video-based tuition from world experts, easy-to-use workbooks and personal mentoring. For those people with a busy schedule who may not be able to access the facility, a CD package allows them to complete the course at home or at work. For those who like the face-to-face classes, they are also there for many courses. However, like the traditional TAFE courses, there are tests. These facilities will certainly assist young and old to make the most of new, exciting opportunities and extend our Smart State status.

I take the opportunity today to point out that only 20 per cent of information technology and telecommunications students and employees are female. I encourage young women to think seriously about a career in this field.

The Smart State policy framework promotes the development of Queensland's communication and information skills, and I invite the Minister for Innovation and Information Economy, the Honourable Paul Lucas, to visit both of these facilities. I offer my congratulations to all staff and students at both centres, and I wish them many creative and successful hours.
