



Speech by

CATE MOLLOY

MEMBER FOR NOOSA

Hansard 6 December 2001

ST THOMAS MORE SCHOOL; SUNSHINE BEACH HIGH SCHOOL DEBUTANTE BALL

Ms MOLLOY (Noosa—ALP) (6.56 p.m.): Tonight I want to share with members my pleasure in attending the St Thomas More school community official blessing and opening of stages 6 and 7 and other facilities at the school at Sunshine Beach on 27 November 2001. The school motto is 'In Truth and Love'. It was evident that this school community truly aspires to these values. Father Basil led the prayers and addressed the children, for, as he indicated, we were there because of the children. The school band played four lively tunes which set the tone of community and celebration. This was followed by the processional hymn. It was refreshing to hear parents, children and visitors join together and sing and practise their beliefs, as is their right in this great democracy, a right which should never be taken for granted. Another feature that I continue to be impressed by is the mutual respect and partnering of Education Queensland and the Catholic education community. Who would have thought 30 years ago that the two would work together the way they do. Australia has come a long way.

Brother Daniel is to be congratulated as the principal of this delightful school community. The blessing ceremony flowed beautifully. The children's behaviour was exemplary, and I told them so. Brothers from the Marist community were there in numbers and I could see their joy at this momentous occasion. The buildings are beautiful and the children attending St Thomas More are most fortunate, not just for the buildings but for the evident commitment of Brother Daniel, Father Basil, the Marist Brothers, parents, teachers and the broader school community. I take this opportunity to thank the teachers, support staff, parents and students for their kindness and consideration shown to me as an invited guest to their school. The some 520 students who attend this lovely primary school are surely the pride and joy of their parents, teachers and all who come in contact with them.

I also attended the Sunshine Beach High School's 2001 Debutante Ball. I was there with my husband, parents-in-law and eldest daughters as a proud mother and special guest. The school principal, Mr Brian Stephens, is to be congratulated on turning out such fine young men and women. Again, the young people of our community showed their talents of exemplary behaviour, excellence in helping stage a wonderful evening of dancing, and being with people who love and cherish them. Special thanks must go to teachers Wendy Machin; Robert Parker; P&C President, Steve Dawson; Caryon Efford; Rosie Morse; Greg Blackburn; Mr Brown; Greg Barber; Shannon Matthews; Lisa Christie; Chris Lad; the guest speaker, Dr Karen Brookes; and Mr Steve Brookes.

The student thank-you presentation was delivered by Melanie Molloy and her partner Sean Francis. A great night was had by all. Well done, Sunshine Beach. It was a spritely Nanna and Poppa who stole the show. No-one can dance like Melanie's Nanna and Poppa. The party held at our home afterwards was small but highly successful. Thanks to the lovely young people who attended. We have much to be proud of in our community.
