



Speech by

## CHRISTINE SMITH

MEMBER FOR BURLEIGH

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Hansard 20 June 2001

### ST ANDREWS LUTHERAN COLLEGE

**Mrs SMITH** (Burleigh—ALP) (10.26 a.m.): Recently I had the honour of representing my honourable colleague the Minister for Education, Anna Bligh, at the official opening of stages 4 and 5 of the building program at St Andrews Lutheran College in West Burleigh. The ceremony began with a stirring rendition of *Advance Australia Fair* by the senior school chapel band. Bible readings were delivered by Senior School Captain Amie Lannen and Junior School Vice-Captain Matthew Pilgrim. I must say that I was very impressed with the performances of the students. They showed a competence and confidence that was beyond their years.

I was also delighted that representatives of the Kombummeri people were there to perform an additional ceremony involving dance and fire starting. The preschoolers could not take their eyes off the fire-lighting performance and it is to be hoped that they did not try that at home.

The project has given the school of 720 students a new purpose-built preschool, library and state-of-the-art design technology block, which incorporates a multimedia area, large industrial strength work area and a dedicated spray booth. Here students will learn about design technology in a situation that mirrors real-life experience.

Currently, students are working on a project to design cars that run on alternative power sources. There are nine new classrooms, and even the hardworking teachers have not been forgotten with a new staffroom and common room.

The Beattie Labor government is proud to have committed \$1.3 million in funding to St Andrews over the past four years. Schools in the Lutheran family have established a rock solid reputation for excellence in both education and pastoral care, and St Andrews is no exception. The school principal, Ruth Butler, and college council chair, Cecile Ryan, are rightfully very proud of their new buildings and they should also be very proud of their own efforts in providing a wonderful education to so many young Queenslanders.

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