



Speech by

**Mrs D. PRATT**

**MEMBER FOR BARAMBAH**

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Hansard 30 October 2001

**COMPUTERS IN SCHOOLS; SAMEWAY MILK**

**Mrs PRATT** (Nanango—Ind) (11.50 a.m.): An incident whereby a school dumped old computers in the rubbish has inspired a group of volunteers to come together to try to help overcome the great divide in information technology that is developing between rural and city schoolchildren. A volunteer group calling itself Computers for School Children has recently been formed to rehabilitate old, unwanted computers and donate them to deserving schoolchildren. Principals and a panel from the schools will decide who the children receiving them will be.

Don Hansford and his computer students at Kingaroy TAFE have assisted in the rehabilitation of these computers. The reason, they say, is that practice makes perfect and that doing something for free for the students is a pleasure. Not only is this an educational advantage for the TAFE students involved; their community-minded generosity is to be admired by all. The assistance of Bob Ferguson, the Principal of Kingaroy State School, with the donation of some motherboards was also very much appreciated.

On Thursday, 6 September 2001 the first computer, which was actually one of mine, was donated to a school student from Kingaroy State School. In an electorate which has a majority of low-income earners and a high unemployment rate, owning a computer is beyond the means of many. Erin Smith, who is in year seven, lives alone with her mother. Her written answer to the question 'Why do I deserve to receive a free computer?' was as follows: 'We would need to win the lotto to ever get a computer at our house.' Erin was so overwhelmed that she cried volumes of tears when she discovered that she was the winner. There was even a sign of maturity in the rest of the schoolchildren assembled there; every student was happy for Erin to receive this computer, and I think that made it even better and made us all realise that it was definitely the right choice.

There is the potential for a great number of underprivileged schoolchildren in my electorate to have the chance to keep up with technology that they would not have been able to access were it not for the group Computers for School Children. Other computers are now in the process of being repaired. Two such computers came from the Wooroolin tip and had many salvageable components. Upon repair, they will also be donated to another school in the area.

To avoid copyright problems, those computers that do not have Windows installed will come with a free program called Linux. Any person or company donating computers or components will be acknowledged at the handover ceremony at the schools to which these computers go. This week, a further two were to go to the Taabinga State School.

Another issue that I wish to raise is that of Sameday Fresh, which has now been called Sameway Milk. Dick Smith accompanied me in officially opening the Sameday Fresh Milk processing factory 12 months ago, and I congratulate John and Marilyn on their first year of production. The Calvert family began production early in 2000. At the opening, there was a huge crowd of community and industry well-wishers.

This is a case of David and Goliath. Just like the Bible story, the Calverts are succeeding against the big boys. They are working at the grassroots and people in Queensland are supporting them. The Calvert operation is the exact opposite of globalisation. It is small businesses like this that are helping to support our children in jobs and our country.

As most honourable members would know, the majority of companies stating that their products are Australian made are in fact foreign owned companies. They might employ Australians, but the

wealth is going overseas. They constantly drain profits from the country and we suffer in the short and long term.

Four generations of the Calvert family have worked the dairy property in the 50 years since Cliff Calvert came to the farm. As I said, Mr Calvert's son John, and Merrilyn, set up Sameday Fresh Milk one year ago. At the tender age of 13, Mr Calvert became a dairy farmer. Never in his wildest dreams did he envisage starting a production facility. Deregulation and the threatened loss of the farm ensured he made the hard decision, thus ensuring jobs for himself and his sons.

I am very sorry to say that during the company's first year the big boys came down like a tonne of bricks, but the Calverts fought on and are winning. In the latter part of 2000 it was reported that the ACCC received an allegation that Paul's Limited had indicated to local traders that it would discontinue supply of Paul's associated products if they stocked milk by independent producers. As I said, earlier this year the company was forced to change its name from Sameday Fresh Milk to Sameway Milk. I congratulate the Calverts on their tenacity and perseverance.

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