



Speech by

Hon. K. LINGARD

MEMBER FOR BEAUDESERT

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AUS NORTH QUEENSLAND UNIVERSITY GAMES

Hon. K. R. LINGARD (Beaudesert—NPA) (10.22 a.m.): Over the next few weeks and months, Queensland will receive a feast of sporting events, including the Goodwill Games and the Veteran Games. But one event which has not received much publicity is the Aus North Queensland University Games, in which over 3,000 students from 14 Queensland universities will be competing. The games will be held in Townsville between 1 and 7 July, with the university games opening ceremony on Sunday, 1 July.

When we look at the future of sport in Queensland, any visitors have always been very impressed with our public school system, where students of excellence can receive quite good competition. But the one thing that is happening with our 16 and 17 year olds is that we do not have much for students to go on to. I have always believed that the future of sport in Queensland will be in our base training that can be provided by universities. We have seen it in America; we have seen the excellence that comes through the American universities, and I believe that this is something that we should certainly support.

At these particular games, 14 universities, including the Australian Catholic University in Queensland, the Central Queensland, Griffith, James Cook, Southern Cross and Bond universities, the University of New England, the University of Southern Queensland, QUT, the University of the Sunshine Coast, the University of Queensland, including its Gatton campus, and, for the first time, the Northern Territory University, will participate in these games in sports such as AFL, baseball, basketball, golf, hockey, netball, rowing, Rugby Union, soccer, softball, squash, tennis, touch football, volleyball and water polo.

We should note also that it is costing these students about \$800 or \$900 to go to Townsville to participate in these games. The games will provide a mechanism for students to go on to the Australian University Games, because there will be three sets of games: one which we call Aus North in Townsville; the Eastern Games in Sydney; and the Southern Games in Melbourne. Certainly, we wish all of these students the very best.
