



Speech by

**Mr N. ROBERTS**

**MEMBER FOR NUDGE**

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#### **GENERATE WEB SITE**

**Mr NEIL ROBERTS** (Nudgee—ALP) (10.24 a.m.): To connect with young people you need to do so on their terms. With this in mind, the Queensland government has established a youth focused web site called GENERATE. GENERATE is a whole-of-government web site for young people aged between 15 and 25 and is a key component of the government's Youth Participation Strategy. GENERATE services include online chats, newsletters, information and feedback on young people's questions and concerns.

One aspect of the web site that is very important is the online chats with ministers. It is an opportunity for young people to chat directly with Queensland government ministers about issues that are important to them, giving them a voice in government decision making. The Minister for Youth, Matt Foley, has set a fine example so far by participating in two online chats this year. As Parliamentary Secretary, I recently participated in an online chat with delegates to a central Queensland youth symposium. The Attorney-General will enter cyberspace for a chat on 14 November and the Minister for Transport on 7 December.

Some recent participants in online chats include the Minister for Natural Resources and Minister for Mines, who was quizzed on AMC's magnesium smelter, vegetation management and water supply for irrigators. The Minister for Police and Corrective Services drew quite a crowd in the chat room with questions regarding CHOGM arrangements, move-on powers and community policing—

**Mr McGrady** interjected.

**Mr NEIL ROBERTS:** And his favourite music. He must have made such an impression on one participant that he even received a lunch invitation.

The Minister for Innovation and Information Economy discussed getting more women in IT courses, the development of IT and biotech sectors in Queensland, and bandwidth access in rural and remote areas. But it is not all business. Ministers are often quizzed on their taste in music and other matters. Minister Lucas has openly declared himself a Whitlams fan—and that is both the band and Gough and Margaret. Ministers online is a wonderful opportunity for young people in Queensland to speak directly with ministers but, more importantly, it is an opportunity for ministers to listen to the views of young people.

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