



Speech by

PHIL REEVES

MEMBER FOR MANSFIELD

Hansard 31 May 2001

MANSFIELD MUSIC CLUSTER

Mr REEVES (Mansfield—ALP) (7.26 p.m.): Last Wednesday evening as part of Education Week I had the pleasure of attending the Mansfield Music Cluster at the Suncorp Piazza at South Bank. Coordinated by the award winning Mansfield State High School music program under the leadership of Marg Overs, it involved combining a number of local state schools with the high school to put on an entertainment spectacular. Local schools involved included Mansfield State High, Mansfield State School, Wishart State School, Mount Gravatt State School, Mount Gravatt East State School and Marshall Road State School. Some 500 students participated, 240 of them from Mansfield State High School and the balance from the primary schools. Senior students helped the primary students all day. The students also had a tour of the Conservatorium of Music.

Tanya Simons, who was the chief adjudicator of the Queensland government Fanfare Choral 2001, which incidentally Mansfield State High School won, was there and conducted. Ross McMurtrie, the Principal of Mansfield State School, attended all day and it was a great effort on his behalf. Ross Davey, Chris Dutt and Lisa Blumson prepared all of the primary and high school ensembles. It was a fantastic effort. The combined band, under Ross Davey, comprising the Mount Gravatt East State School and the Mount Gravatt State School string program on Marshall Road, was brilliant. These young kids of 10 to 12 years of age had had only two rehearsals, and their performance was brilliant.

There were performances by the Mansfield State School Strings and Concert Band, the Wishart State School Strings and Concert Band, the combined concert bands of those other schools, the Wishart Show Choir—which stole the show—and the concert band. It was amazing when all of these bands together performed at the one time, from primary school to high school. We showed why Queensland is world renowned for its school music program. This event highlighted that this musical program is first class.

To see the schools all combining was truly unique. I do not think it has ever been done before. But it should not surprise members that not only is the electorate of Mansfield the public transport epicentre of the Asia-Pacific rim; they talk of the Mansfield schools music program as being the Mecca of all music programs in the southern hemisphere. State schools are definitely great schools.
