



Speech by

DESLEY BOYLE

MEMBER FOR CAIRNS

Hansard 11 April 2002

WOREE STATE HIGH SCHOOL

Ms BOYLE (Cairns—ALP) (7.19 p.m.): Tonight I rise to bring to the attention of honourable members an initiative by the school council of the Woree State High School in Cairns, namely, a petition addressed to me. Unfortunately, it is not in the strictly correct form to allow its tabling as a petition. Nonetheless, the message in the petition and the number of signatures collected in only one lunch-hour at Woree State High School are a testament to the importance of the statement that these students are making. I bring it to the attention of honourable members and I will be passing it on to the Premier for his reply in due course. It states—

We the undersigned wish to acknowledge our support for the cultural diversity of our society. We recognise the need for harmony and the need to celebrate our many cultures. We call on the state government to create and fund policies that encourage cultural understanding, tolerance, celebration and acceptance.

This petition statement was placed on a table during one lunch-hour and was signed by 272 students and teachers of Woree State High School. Woree State High School is proud of its cultural diversity and it is appropriate that its young people should call on this government to do its utmost in the present climate to address multicultural issues.

I will ask that the Premier reply to the students as to what this government is already doing and any future plans we have to address the subject of that petition. I will also ask that the Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier (Multicultural Affairs), Darryl Briskey, meet with the students at his next opportunity. I am proud of the young people of Cairns, and particularly of these young people, for the fine values that they hold and for their determination already to take action and ensure that the society of the future in Cairns is a healthier and happier one than we already have.
