



Speech by

Mr N. ROBERTS

MEMBER FOR NUDGE

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EARNSHAW STATE COLLEGE

Mr NEIL ROBERTS (Nudgee—ALP) (1.57 a.m.): On Monday, 20 May, Education Minister Anna Bligh officially announced that Banyo's new preschool to year 12 would be called Earnshaw State College. This is a significant milestone in the history of Banyo and Nudgee. I want to acknowledge the dedication and persistence of this community in pursuing the noble objective of improving the educational opportunities for our local young people.

Earnshaw State College was named in honour of William Earnshaw, a prominent figure in Queensland's education history, who purchased land at Nudgee in the early 1900s. William Earnshaw was born in England in 1866. He became a teacher and as a young man he made two trips to Australia to try to make his fortune on the Ballarat goldfields. He arrived in Brisbane in 1890 and immediately joined the Queensland Education Department. He had a lengthy and successful career in teaching and eventually progressed to inspector of schools, ultimately becoming Chief Inspector of Schools in Queensland. He is buried in the Nundah historic cemetery in Hedley Avenue. William Earnshaw made a magnificent contribution to education in Queensland. It is fitting to carry on his memory at a school that will continue with a fine tradition of commitment to quality education and care for our students.

Banyo State High School and Nudgee Primary School have served us well. As the amalgamated Earnshaw State College, they will continue to do so and take education in this community into the 21st century. P-12 schools are the way of the future. They are not a passing fad and will produce positive educational outcomes for students. One of the main features of Earnshaw State College will be a focus on the middle school for students in years 6 to 9. It will constitute an educational, social and psychological bridge between the junior and senior schools. Teachers will take advantage of best teaching practices and strategies that challenge and extend students within a supportive and flexible classroom environment.

The state government is investing \$8.8 million in this project. This will include the construction of a new junior school for students from preschool to year 5 and new and refurbished middle and senior schools, including a new 200-seat performing arts centre. The first instalment of almost \$2.3 million was allocated in the 2002 budget for the construction of the middle school. Its completion will coincide with the official commencement of Earnshaw State College as a P-12 school at the start of the 2003 school year. Earnshaw State College will form an important part of an exciting new educational precinct in Banyo and Nudgee. Australian Catholic University will open its doors at Banyo in 2003 with the help of a \$6 million state government investment. There is rich potential to share resources, programs and personnel with ACU and also to provide more flexible opportunities for students to pursue their career and educational goals. ACU has recently formed a strategic partnership with the Brisbane Institute of TAFE which will be of great benefit to local students.

Thank you to all of those people—too many to mention individually—who have worked so hard to see this vision become a reality.