



Speech by

**Mr D. BRISKEY**

**MEMBER FOR CLEVELAND**

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Hansard 9 September 2003

#### **YOUTH PARLIAMENT**

**Mr BRISKEY** (Cleveland—ALP) (10.27 a.m.): As members are aware, the YMCA's Youth Parliament program provides young Australians with an insight into government process and the opportunity to actively participate in the parliamentary process. It provides a forum for expression of youth views by policy formation. The program has been conducted nationally for the past 19 years and brings together approximately 120 young people aged between 15 and 18 from around Australia. Members are selected from all regions of Australia, including a range of backgrounds, ages and educational credentials.

This year, Queensland's Youth Parliament, which I was delighted to participate in, was held here in this chamber. My electorate of Cleveland was represented by a young woman by the name of Eleanor Penny. Eleanor has an interest in community welfare and has experience within our local community with various fundraising activities. Indeed, I saw her volunteer her time at this year's Terry Fox run in Cleveland. This is a yearly fundraising activity run by the Redlands branch of the Queensland Cancer Fund.

Unfortunately, Eleanor fell ill during the event so was only able to participate in a small way. She told me that being involved in the Youth Parliament will help her to make a difference and contribute to the community in the future.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr BRISKEY:** She is much better now. I thank members for their concern.

Eleanor formed part of one of the 16 teams from all over Australia. These teams formulated bills reflecting the opinions of young people. Members spend approximately six months developing the bills and during this time engage in parliamentary education. The wonderful thing about this experience is that youth parliamentarians attempt to imitate reality. They have members, senators and ministers presiding over proceedings.

After two days of debate there was a closing ceremony at which the bills passed by the YMCA Youth Parliament 2003 were presented to an appropriate member of parliament who will disseminate the bills passed by the Youth Parliament among relevant state and federal ministers. The YMCA Youth Parliament is a very worthwhile and educational project which I encourage any young person to participate in.

Time expired.