



Speech by

Mr D. BRISKEY

MEMBER FOR CLEVELAND

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EDUCATION [GENERAL PROVISIONS] AMENDMENT BILL

Mr BRISKEY (Cleveland—ALP) (10.31 p.m.): It gives me great pleasure to rise and speak in support of the Education (General Provisions) Amendment Bill. Any mechanism which ensures the safety and security of our children is to be commended.

As parents we like to think that our children are covered by the best possible care when they leave home each morning and arrive at the school grounds. Speaking from experience, I know that teachers would simply like to get on with the job of providing an education for students. Unfortunately, there are going to be some incidences where people wander onto school grounds unannounced and uninvited for the sole purpose of causing unwanted trouble. This bill acknowledges the very special and important roles schools play in our community. It also acknowledges the role of school principals in ensuring that the highest level of conduct is maintained and ensuring that any unwanted trouble is taken care of efficiently and effectively.

School principals and educators alike play a very special role in the lives of our children. They are often more than just a teacher and make a significant impact on students' time and help shape them as young people. One such teacher, Mr Gregory Neave of Wellington Point State High School, is one of those very special people. I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Greg and to congratulate him on receiving one of the five Westfield Premier's Educational Scholarships in recognition of his commitment to teaching excellence.

Greg was one of 39 teachers presented with awards and scholarships by the Minister for Education, the Hon. Anna Bligh, at a ceremony to mark World Teachers Day. World Teachers Day is an excellent opportunity to recognise and reward the hard work and dedication of all teachers—teachers who go above and beyond the call of duty to help their students reach their full potential, teachers who make an impact and go that extra mile each and every day.

Greg Neave received a Westfield Premier's Educational Scholarship in recognition of his outstanding leadership skills and his contribution to nurturing students through innovative educational programs. These programs included the introduction of a single-sex class which provided a more supportive learning environment and the inclusion of computer mini-labs in science classes to successfully integrate information technology into teaching and learning.

The Westfield Premier's Educational Scholarships acknowledged the exemplary work of state and non-state school teachers and gave them the opportunity to undertake an overseas study tour in their chosen field. Greg Neave and all the other recipients deserve the highest praise for their efforts to prepare young Queenslanders with the skills and knowledge they need for the future. As a former teacher I salute them.