



Speech by

DESLEY SCOTT

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

Hansard 13 November 2003

WORLD TEACHERS DAY; MS C. MEADOWS

Mrs DESLEY SCOTT (Woodridge—ALP) (7.12 p.m.): Our teachers have a magnificent opportunity to influence and inspire our children. Many people who have made unique and worthwhile contributions to society often recall a teacher who, in their earlier years, set them on the right track and ignited that spark which led them to follow their dream.

World teachers day on Friday, 31 October gave us all an opportunity to recognise and applaud the work our teachers perform, so many of them with passion and a real sense of caring for their young students. It was my privilege to attend a special morning tea at Marsden State School where we not only congratulated our teachers for the valuable work they do but also recognised the special contribution made by one teacher in particular, Christine Meadows. Indeed, the community hold Christine in such high regard they have nominated her for the very prestigious National Excellence in Teaching Award. The NEiTA Foundation recognises and rewards representatives of the profession who encourage the enjoyment of learning and who, through their work, make a significant contribution to the advancement of education.

Christine Meadows has been teaching at Marsden State School for 14 years and has developed the ability to make students and parents feel welcome. She makes learning fun and believes that all children can achieve. Christine is an extremely dedicated teacher who always goes the extra mile for her community. Her ability to organise parent committees, raise funds for the school and communicate with parents is exceptional. When Marsden State School was chosen as a trial school for the preparatory year, it was Christine who was chosen to take this prep class. I have had the privilege of viewing her class in action and was fascinated at the rapt attention of her young charges. She is a teacher of exceptional talent and dedication.

I was pleased to join principal Mr Dennis Howard to present Christine with a certificate of nomination, which in itself is a great honour. One hundred teachers across Australia will now be selected for regional awards to be announced in May 2004. The final awards will then be presented in November 2004 when 32 teachers will receive specially crafted NEiTA crystal apple awards and be considered for grants for professional development of up to \$5,000. One teacher will be sponsored to represent Australian teachers at the NASA international space camp in Alabama, USA.

Teachers are a rare breed. Those of us not of their profession may squirm at the mere thought of spending a day in a classroom of exuberant youngsters. Yet those who are passionate about our children, who get great joy out of seeing them develop and advance, deserve our praise and our support. World Teachers Day is one opportunity for parents and our community to say a very sincere thankyou.