



Speech by

Fiona Simpson

MEMBER FOR MAROOCHYDORE

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SCHOOLS, MAROOCHYDORE ELECTORATE

Miss SIMPSON (Maroochydore—NPA) (6.06 p.m.): I rise to speak about some of the great things happening in the state high school and primary schools in my local area. We have some truly dedicated teachers and great community involvement. Maroochydore High School has just taken on the Beacon project, the no dole pledge project. This means that its students are signing up to a no dole pledge so that they will look to their future and consider their options with regard to training, higher education—whether it is tertiary or vocational—or going into the work force. This is a very positive program which I wholeheartedly endorse. I hope that many good businesspeople get on board and take on trainees and apprentices—young people entering the work force as they leave school. Most of all, it is a program to encourage young people to see their opportunities beyond high school and to make that transition into the work force or into further education. I commend Maroochydore High School for taking on what I believe is an excellent project. It is something that has worked well down south, and I understand that Maroochydore High School is the first high school in south-east Queensland signed up to the no dole project.

When we introduce young people into training and into the work force after high school, it is more likely that they will not see welfare as a long-term option. While welfare is still a social network, obviously to have them fulfil their potential by being in the work force or going into training and then into the work force is the most desirable option, because it is about them being able to fulfil their destiny, being able to have greater financial freedom and pursuing the gifts that they have in their life by further training that enables them to reach their fullest potential. Full marks to Maroochydore High School for being involved in this project. I certainly commend the project to local businesses as they take on young people who are involved in this. Young people have said that they do not want to go on the dole but do want to be active members of the community by fulfilling their potential through the work force or through education.

There are other great things happening in our other schools as well, and I want to acknowledge some of the awards that have recently been won by Mooloolaba Primary School, which has certainly shown that with dedicated teachers and parents it can excel in so many arenas. What we have seen it do in the last couple of years has been quite extraordinary. It deserves to be commended for its literacy programs which have been some of the best in the state. I also acknowledge Mountain Creek High, which has only recently endeavoured to introduce the Baccalaureate which is going to be starting very soon to enable students to have international access to universities.