



Speech by

Paul Hoolihan

MEMBER FOR KEPPEL

Hansard Wednesday, 24 November 2004

KEPPEL ELECTORATE, SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Mr HOOLIHAN (Keppel—ALP) (6.35 p.m.): Tonight I rise in the adjournment debate to bring to the notice of this House some of the glories that come out of large schools and their graduation ceremonies. In my electorate I have the good fortune to have four large high schools, and there are another two just outside my electorate. I have attended the graduation ceremonies for each one of those schools when I have been able. St Ursula's and St Brendan's schools both have a large population that comes from outside Keppel, but they are a showcase for our area and my electorate.

One of the things that comes through with every one of those schools is the joy that those young adults have in the graduation ceremony and also in graduating generally. It gives them an opportunity not only to showcase their school but also to show the outside world what great citizens these schools are turning out. They really are the future of our communities.

Each one of the schools that I have attended has had large concert bands. They do not only follow educational pursuits. They employ people who are highly qualified and who really enjoy educating kids in some of the finer arts such as acting and music, or other things such as chess. All of this makes the students very rounded citizens and hopefully they will become great citizens in the future of our state.

Often young people get knocked for some of the antics that happen at schoolies week. I left my electorate on Sunday, but prior to leaving I helped with breakfast for the schoolies at Yeppoon's main beach. All of the young people who came there to have breakfast were there just to enjoy themselves. They were not there to upset anyone in the community.

Mrs Carryn Sullivan interjected.

Mr HOOLIHAN: I did not cook the sausages; I cut up the tomatoes. They came along. They are enjoying their freedom and they will go on to follow a trade, attend university or go to work to fund a family. Many of the media outlets in our state and our nation knock our youth. They have criticised our youth, but those young adults are our future.

To all of the teachers from the schools within my electorate and all of those graduating from high schools this year, I say congratulations on turning out some great citizens. Over the next couple of years I look forward to seeing the children who are still in the system pass out and become citizens for our future.