



Speech by

Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard 22 April 2004

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Education Exports

Hon. P. D. BEATTIE (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.47 a.m.): I want to report today on Queensland's education export sector, because it is soaring. I am delighted to inform the House that our strategy to encourage education exports is working. Since the Queensland Education and Training Export Board began in late 2001, exports have grown by an impressive 49 per cent. A new estimate by Queensland Treasury puts the annual worth of international education and training in Queensland at \$801 million. We are on track to hit the target set before the board was established of doubling export earnings of \$500 million by the end of 2006.

Queensland is now home to more than 35,000 international students each year. They hail from nations as diverse as Norway and Brazil, as well as our neighbours and trading partners in South-East Asia and North-East Asia. A number of Smart State institutions also teach international students in their home countries through e-learning, and via offshore partners, and satellite facilities.

This industry proves the phenomenal potential of selling Queensland 'brains'. We are building a global reputation as a hub for quality education in a safe, friendly environment. Because of time, I seek leave to incorporate the rest of my ministerial statement in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

The industry's academic endeavour and world class facilities are instrumental to this growth. Queensland research in areas such as biotechnology, marine science and environmental management garners worldwide respect.

The government is doing what it can to support the industry, including:

- Developing "Study Queensland" marketing material;
- Offering professional development training for institutions;
- Funding co-operative marketing initiatives by regional clusters of education providers; and
- Promoting the industry internationally in strategically important markets.

The industry yields rewards in Brisbane, on the Gold and Sunshine Coasts, in Toowoomba, Townsville, Cairns, Rockhampton, Wide Bay—and many regions besides.

The rewards are not only immediate and economic, because Queensland also gains from cultural exchanges and lasting international friendships.

I thank all members of the board—which is chaired by former Minister, Paul Braddy, for steering development of this Smart State gem.