



Speech by

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MEMBER FOR SURFERS PARADISE

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BENOWA STATE HIGH SCHOOL

Mr LANGBROEK (Surfers Paradise—Lib) (5.47 pm): I would like to express my gratitude to Benowa State High School for inviting me to their great school last week. Benowa High is the only state high school in the electorate of Surfers Paradise and the school continues to bring credit to itself and the area—a point I will return to later.

Last week, I was able to attend as a special guest the schools investiture of school leaders ceremony. At the ceremony, I presented the badges, blazers and certificates to the new school captains and prefects. I was able to speak with the new young leaders before and after the ceremony and was impressed by their keenness, their attitude and candour. Their first role as captains was to MC the ceremony and they did it professionally, without a trace of first day nerves—a very impressive display in front of the entire school population of 1,400 and parents in the packed sports hall.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the new captains Kendell Chick and Cameron Oliver, vice captains Jenna Korhonen and David Murphy and the 20 strong group of prefects, a result of the school's leadership program. Congratulations also to the school's scholarship winners for 2006. The new student scholars were also presented their certificates at the ceremony.

Each year, the school awards scholarships for its well-respected French immersion and music programs. These programs really do illustrate the schools slogan 'many pathways—no limits'. The French immersion program has been operating since 1985 and has been acclaimed throughout Australia and the world as a highly successful model in extension studies and language education. The immersion program for students in years 8 through 10 follows the mainstream curriculum and involves teaching mathematics, science, social sciences, physical education and French using the French language as the medium of instruction and using teaching materials which have been translated into French.

The main reason for joining the immersion program is for the intellectual development of children, affording a deeper knowledge of the structures and the processes of communication. It is an amazing program. The respect for music at Benowa State High also means selective students receive scholarships for its program each year. At the ceremony last week we were treated to the fruits of the music department, with the school's Clearwater String Ensemble performing 'Two South American Tangos' under the direction of Mrs Jacq Hanna. After hearing the standard of the performance, my prior requests to the minister will only become more persistent. This school's program is producing quality young performers. Let us hope the government can find the funds to grant them the performing arts centre they have been asking for.

Thanks again to Benowa State High for its hospitality last week. In particular, I thank Principal Mark Rickard; the deputy principals, Carmel Gomm Wright, Pam Lynch and Ari Koskella; the year 12 coordinator, Mark Stothart; and Mrs Brown's hospitality class for the fantastic morning tea after the ceremony. They have done very well in their OP scores, receiving six OP1s in 2004. But the graduating class of 2005 proved this was not a flash in the pan, with another five OP1s and a strong showing between OP2 and OP10. I look forward to sharing with the House the continued success of the school in the future.