



Speech by

Hon. Rod Welford

MEMBER FOR EVERTON

Hansard Tuesday, 28 February 2006

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Literacy, Framework for Action

Hon. RJ WELFORD (Everton—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for the Arts) (10.16 am): We are building a modern, responsive education system that equips our young people for the challenges of the 21st century. Our Education and Training Reforms for the Future, the introduction of the prep year next year in 2007 and the new College of Teachers are all part of this exciting growth phase.

We are working hard to give our students the opportunity to make the most out of life. At the heart of a student's ability to succeed in school and beyond are good literacy and numeracy skills. That is why our government is today launching a comprehensive new blueprint to boost student literacy skills in Queensland state schools. 'Literacy—The Key to Learning: Framework for Action 2006 to 2008' provides a strategy to develop higher literacy standards, and I table that document for the interest of all honourable members.

It is essential that we give every student from prep to year 12 the best chance to master literacy so they can meet the challenges of 21st century life. This plan details the challenges and provides responses. It focuses on four key elements: teacher professional development, literacy in the curriculum, student learning and leadership. It recognises that quality teaching can make the single biggest difference to students' literacy outcomes. That is why it will ensure that every classroom teacher from P-9 has intensive training in the teaching of literacy, including the teaching of reading, grammar and spelling.

This framework for action is part of an overall strategy by our government to improve student learning. It will complement the Queensland Studies Authority review of curriculum, assessment and reporting where there will be trials in schools across the state this year, with full implementation planned for 2008. We are continuing to build an education system that equips our children to meet the challenges of the future.