



Speech by

Stirling Hinchliffe

MEMBER FOR STAFFORD

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WORLD TEACHERS' DAY

Mr HINCHLIFFE (Stafford—ALP) (10.08 pm): I am sure that every one of us had a teacher who inspired us and encouraged us in a way that we still value and, indeed, rely upon. Teachers have made a very real difference to each and every one of our lives.

Last Friday, 27 October, was World Teachers' Day and a great public opportunity to celebrate the invaluable contribution that teachers make to individuals and our society as a whole. That is why I was so pleased to visit the Stafford State School to celebrate World Teachers' Day. Acting principal, Garry Drummond, and the school's caring and resourceful teaching staff enjoyed a brief morning tea before returning to the classroom to continue educating, nurturing and improving their students.

On Friday, I attended an unrelated community event held at Craigslea State High School, just over my electorate's border in the district of Aspley. A range of impressively presented and capable students supported the event with their organisational skills and superb catering. I was particularly proud to see this at my old high school.

Visiting my old high school on World Teachers' Day also allowed me to renew a connection with Kay Jarratt. In 1984, Mrs Jarratt—as I feel obliged to call her—was my year 9 business principles teacher. Apparently, that was her first year at Craigslea State High School, and I was excited to think that 22 years later Mrs Jarratt and her professional colleagues were enthusiastically engaged in this noble but often undermined profession.

I concluded World Teachers' Day at the Mt Alvernia College awards night where this tremendous school, providing education for girls based on the Franciscan tradition, is celebrating its 50th year. The young women who received a range of academic, cultural, sporting and community awards were clearly the products of good teachers and good leadership in teaching. That is why I was not surprised to read the principal's column in the college newsletter.

Principal Vicki Ward wrote about the so-called 'education debate', responding to ridiculous headlines like 'Ideologues hijack education'. In 1,200 incisive words, Ms Ward compares modern education with the non-existent but idealised past promoted by the likes of John Howard and Julie Bishop. For the benefit of the House, I will conclude with a slice of this powerful and positive statement as a testament to World Teachers' Day. She stated—

We have moved from industrial-age education where everyone was put through the same process with the same, very basic curriculum, to the information age where it is impossible to learn all one needs to know at school and even impossible to describe what one needs to know. We moved from an industrial system that required the majority of workers to be literate and numerate enough to follow routines and practices, with the minority setting up the processes and calling the shots, to a world that requires creativity, initiative, critical insight and adaptability in everyone. We need different outcomes now, so we need to study different things in a different way.