



Speech by
Jan Jarratt

MEMBER FOR WHITSUNDAY

Hansard Tuesday, 17 April 2007

NATIONAL YOUTH WEEK

Ms JARRATT (Whitsunday—ALP) (9.43 pm): It is National Youth Week and by way of celebrating tonight I want to relate two very different stories that pertain to young people. Last week 10-year-old Audrey from Brisbane was holidaying in my electorate on Daydream Island when she became very, very ill. In fact, she was lapsing in and out of consciousness. She was taken to Proserpine Hospital and diagnosed with type 1 diabetes. Fortunately, Audrey is much better and is learning to manage her condition.

The point of this story, however, is that her father, Michael, emailed me and other people singing the praises of the Proserpine Hospital and its medical and nursing staff. He could not believe that his daughter had received such amazing treatment at a country hospital in Queensland. He, like everyone else, has probably heard only bad things about Queensland Health in recent times. So he was delighted to learn that the nursing and medical staff at Proserpine Hospital went above and beyond the call of duty in treating his daughter. He cannot speak highly enough of them, and I endorse his sentiments entirely.

The second bit of good news is that, as the patron of the Whitsunday PCYC, I was honoured on Saturday to launch the inaugural Youth Environment Awards. The PCYC has a group of young people who have formed the PCYC Eco Kids. They undertook to give community environment awards to raise the profile of caring for the environment and also, I think, to engage in some positive activities.

I was delighted to be involved with this program, which has involved cooperation and support from a range of community and government organisations including the Whitsunday Catchment Landcare, the Mackay Whitsunday Natural Resource Management Group and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority. The PCYC Eco Kids have joined the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority's reef guardian program. They are the first PCYC to do that, and I hope they are the first of many more. They have joined schools right up and down the coast and throughout Queensland in this important program that seeks to protect our Great Barrier Reef.

I was delighted to meet Portia and Bianca Large, who cohosted the awards last Friday. They are delightful young people and if they are any indication of the youth out there then our future is in fantastic hands. I congratulate them on their effort and all those who were involved in the inaugural Whitsunday Youth Environment Awards.