



Speech by

Peter Wellington

MEMBER FOR NICKLIN

Hansard Wednesday, 7 March 2007

SCHOOL INDUCTION CEREMONIES; ORGAN DONATION

Mr WELLINGTON (Nicklin—Ind) (9.41 pm): I use this opportunity to say how proud I am of all the state and private schools that are in my electorate. Since the last sitting of parliament I have had the privilege of attending school student leader induction ceremonies at the Chevallum State School, Nambour Christian College, Eudlo State School, Palmwoods State School, Kenilworth State Community College, North Arm State School and Bli Bli State School. We have great student leaders who have pride and confidence who I know well. I know that these student leaders will do well during their term as leaders.

Also last week my wife and I had the opportunity to join with members of the Palmwoods-Woombye Lions Club to hear students speak in the Lions Youth of the Year Quest. The winning students were from the Nambour St John's College. We all wish them well as they progress to the next level in the regional competition.

During last month I had the privilege of flagging off cyclists who cycled from the Sunshine Coast to the Brisbane Princess Alexandra Hospital. The cyclists were riding to help lift community awareness of the importance of organ and tissue donation in Australia. We had heart and liver recipients cycling, organ donor family members cycling with doctors, and nurses and children all participating. I understand that as I speak tonight there are over 1,700 Australians currently waiting for a life-saving organ transplant and that last year 128 Queenslanders received life-saving organ transplants.

I use this opportunity to urge all Queenslanders and all Australians to think about registering their consent to donate. I understand that most of the world religions including Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, Jehovah's Witness, Sikhism support organ and tissue donation and transplantation as an act of generosity, merit and benevolence. The Catholic Pope has endorsed organ donation as a compassionate choice. To register, people only need to contact the Australian Organ Donor Register on 1800777203. Please tell their family, partners and friends that they wish to donate.