



Speech by

Rachel Nolan

MEMBER FOR IPSWICH

Hansard Wednesday, 22 August 2007

AMBERLEY STATE SCHOOL; POLYVISION

Ms NOLAN (Ipswich—ALP) (10.04 pm): I will respond by making two points before making my adjournment speech. The first point is that while the Howard government has committed \$26.4 million for the replacement of the Amberley State School it did it immediately in response to the Labor candidate for Blair's, Shane Newman, commitment through Kevin Rudd that Labor would do that. They did it a year after the federal government began contemplating the move of that school. It was Labor that achieved that money. The Howard government was dragged kicking and screaming to it. Similarly, this government is ready to choose—

Mr Rickuss interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for Lockyer, you were heard in silence.

Ms NOLAN: Similarly, this government is ready to announce a new site for that school as soon as the Howard government responds to our correspondence on the matter. That is the delay in this case.

I want to speak tonight about the Polyvision project which is currently running in Ipswich. Sadly, as we all know, boredom, a lack of education and endless hours to contemplate this dreadful situation creates for many young men the circumstances that allow them to evolve into young thugs. We see this phenomenon emerge all over the world, and even in our own backyard, where disadvantage and ignorance become the standard bearer of the angry young gang member. When ethnicity or religion are added to that mix, the polarising of difference engenders dangerous levels of resentment and often, sadly, a desire to lash out. We see stories unfold in the newspapers of young men from ethnic minorities emerging into young gang members and prowling the streets of many areas of Australia, often with violent intent. We see in Australia the reaction of communities to that, which is always an angry one and never a very helpful one. In Ipswich we are responding in a constructive manner to the emergence of some of those circumstances. What we are doing in Ipswich is running a project called Polyvision which is an outreach event that was held at UQ Ipswich in July 2007. An initiative of the UQ Boilerhouse and Higher Education Equity Support Program, Polyvision targets Polynesian high school students in the Inala to Ipswich corridor.

What it does is bring together those young people and encourage them to dream big dreams and for people to talk to them about why their parents came to Australia and what opportunities there are for them and what they might do with their lives. Polyvision was recently run at the University of Queensland's Ipswich campus. It brought a number of people from Auckland to talk about the opportunities in higher education for young people of Polynesian background. It was a day that was celebrated by many dozens of students from across the community. I genuinely want to congratulate the University of Queensland's Ipswich campus on this terrific initiative.