



Speech by

Hon. Rod Welford

MEMBER FOR EVERTON

Hansard Tuesday, 4 September 2007

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Next Step Student Destination Survey

Hon. RJ WELFORD (Everton—ALP) (Minister for Education and Training and Minister for the Arts) (10.27 am): Leaving school is a significant turning point in a young person's life so I am pleased today to announce the release of the latest Next Step Student Destination Survey. Our government believes that valuable insights into the effectiveness of our programs can be derived by monitoring the employment, study and life choices of school leavers after they leave school. A survey of the previous year's year 12 students has been conducted this year, the third year that the survey has been undertaken.

More than 80 per cent of school leavers responded to this year's survey, providing Australia's most comprehensive picture of what year 12s are doing approximately six months after completing school. Today I am pleased to inform the House of some of the findings of this year's Next Step report.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Could you incorporate the remainder of your speech in *Hansard*?

Mr WELFORD: I am happy to incorporate the remainder of my ministerial statement in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

These findings will help us to determine the best way to prepare young people for post-school success at the local, regional and state level.

Report highlights include:

- More than nine in 10 Year 12 graduates are studying or in paid employment
- About two-thirds are in some form of education or training in the year after they left school
- More than one-third are undertaking a university degree
- In addition, more than 2,500 deferred a tertiary offer, most of whom are working
- More than a quarter are participating in vocational education and training
- More than one in seven are undertaking employment-based training, either as an apprentice or a trainee

Mr Speaker, whether they are working, training or studying, these young Queenslanders are making their way in the world.

This survey plays a key role in our Government's commitment to improve school reporting to parents.

Schools throughout the state soon will receive a report summarising the destinations of last year's Year 12s which can be shared with their school communities.

I congratulate last year's graduates on their achievements and sincerely thank survey respondents for giving their time in support of this important initiative.

Today, I would also like to pass on my support to the 30,000 Year 12 students undertaking the Queensland Core Skills Test today and tomorrow.

This test is an opportunity for them to demonstrate their broad knowledge from their senior schooling.

Results help to calculate the OP scores students need for tertiary entrance.

Good luck to all students sitting the test today and tomorrow!