



Speech by

**Hon. Rod Welford**

**MEMBER FOR EVERTON**

Hansard Thursday, 11 October 2007

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## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Showcase Awards for Excellence**

**Hon. RJ WELFORD** (Everton—ALP) (Minister for Education and Training and Minister for the Arts) (10.07 am): Tonight Queensland's most successful state school programs are vying for our top educational accolades at the annual Showcase Awards for Excellence in Schools. Our state schools do so much more than just teach the three Rs, and the Showcase Awards recognise the great work being done to enrich our school communities and make a positive difference to the lives of young people across the state.

Just under a decade ago, a decision was made to introduce an event to formally recognise the excellence and outstanding achievements of our schools. In many respects it was a momentous decision because tonight's Showcase Awards for Excellence in Schools is now one of the most highly respected of our premier awards programs for Education Queensland's state schools. I am proud to say that we have around 500,000 students, supported by more than 36,000 full-time, dedicated, professional teachers in more than 1,200 state schools. Every school plays their part—every teacher, every student, every parent plays their part—in a clever, skilled and creative Queensland, and our government is keen to share their many successes with the community.

Twenty-six finalists have been chosen from more than 100 submissions to compete for the major awards tonight. They are competing in eight categories covering the three phases of learning: inclusive education, leadership, innovation, academic excellence and partnerships with the community or industry.

The work of these finalists is already improving results and outcomes in their schools and it is tremendous that we can honour them for their efforts. The successful schools include Karumba, Camooweal, Normanton, Boulia, Doomadgee, Mornington Island, Cloncurry and Dysart, to name just a few. Many face the challenges of isolation and distance, but all strive to deliver the best educational opportunities for their students. Their projects are just as diverse, such as secondary students providing early childhood services as part of their studies, or schools working with an artist-in-residence to stimulate the creativity of a growing student's talents. These are just some of the exceptional programs that are vying for a state award at our showcase awards tonight. I am extremely proud of all our schools in Queensland, and I am sure all members will agree that every one in very many and varied ways is a deserved awards winner.