



Speech by

Hon. Rod Welford

MEMBER FOR EVERTON

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Creative Generation Student Excellence Awards

Hon. RJ WELFORD (Everton—ALP) (Minister for Education and Training and Minister for the Arts) (10.11 am): Queensland is increasingly recognised both nationally and internationally for its innovative and dynamic arts scene. Several generations of artists have led the way, including Oscar award winner Geoffrey Rush, rock musicians Powderfinger, composer Richard Mills, choreographer Stephen Page and visual artist Ian Fairweather. Our government is committed to supporting the next generation of Queensland artists and performers. This support starts in our schools.

A growing body of international and Australian research demonstrates many benefits of an arts-rich education, including doing better academically, boosting confidence and motivation and improving students' life skills. In line with the recent national education and the arts statement, developed jointly by the ministerial councils on education and culture and led by Queensland, we are working to ensure that young Queenslanders reach their full artistic potential. We are building a culture of creativity and innovation. We have developed an exciting new program for senior school students who are keen to pursue a career in the creative arts—the Creative Generation Student Excellence Awards. I am pleased to announce that these will be a new set of awards available to students in our state schools. The awards recognise talented senior students and encourage them to extend their creative passions. In what can be considered a generational exchange, this program will partner aspiring students with highly respected arts industry professionals through a series of hands-on workshops. It will bring together students from metropolitan, regional and remote areas so they can extend their talents and share achievements with other creative student artists.

This awards program builds on the 18-year success of the Education Minister's Awards for Excellence in Art and the MOST awards, the Musically Outstanding Students program. From next year, our awards program will extend to five art forms, with new excellence awards in dance, drama, contemporary music and film, television and new media. Next year up to 130 talented Queensland senior students passionate about a career in one of the five art forms will have the chance to take part in the creative generation awards. Information kits will be mailed to schools before the end of this final term 4. I encourage our next generation of artists to take advantage of this exciting opportunity. I look forward to hearing and seeing their creative work in the years to come.