



Speech by

Michael Crandon

MEMBER FOR COOMERA

Hansard Tuesday, 23 March 2010

COOMERA ELECTORATE, SCHOOL LEADERS

Mr CRANDON (Coomera—LNP) (9.57 pm): I must say that our future certainly appears to be in good hands. That is the only conclusion I can come to when I consider what I have witnessed over the past few weeks. I have had the pleasure of attending a number of leadership assemblies across the Coomera electorate and what a pleasure it has been. As a new member I was quite chuffed that schools such as Eagleby State School and Coomera Primary School invited me to address the parents, teachers and, most importantly, the children to share with them my thoughts on leadership and what it means winning office and the responsibility taking office brings with it. I also shared with them my thoughts on competing for a role and how important it is to throw your hat into the ring, step up to the plate and present yourself for consideration.

We in this House all know what these young people—the winners and those who were unsuccessful—have been through. In their young lives they have now experienced what competing for a leadership position means and they should all feel proud for trying. They are all winners. They should all be encouraged, whether they were successful this time or not, to try again. Just last week I attended a function and was invited to share a meal with the dux of the newest school in my electorate, together with 10 others who were the dux of their respective schools in 2009. Samantha Atkinson was the 2009 year 9 dux of Ormeau Woods State High School, which, as a new school, had years 8 and 9 students only. I congratulate Samantha on her success in 2009 and wish her well in her future endeavours.

I also enjoyed some time at a Girl Guides weekend and discovered the commitment that the girls and their leaders have. It was a very windy weekend and there were some challenges for them. Finally, I must report on the Lions Youth of the Year Quest. What a wonderful experience. The zone judging that I was able to attend had four wonderful speakers, young people from four local schools. Jessica Boyce from Beenleigh State High School; Rhiannon Davies from Tamborine Mountain State High School; Adam Price from St Stephens College at Upper Coomera; and Caitlin Usher from AB Patterson College were our speakers and they all did a magnificent job.

Their speeches were about issues troubling modern society. Among other things, they talked about drug addiction and mental health issues, which are two issues that I am passionate about. I spoke about those issues in my maiden speech in this place. There is no doubt that those two matters are linked. It is comforting to know that our young people are aware of the issues and are calling for action. For example, in her speech on mental health issues, Caitlin Usher stated—

A crisis is facing Australia, an issue so widely spread that it will affect every one of us in some way.

Caitlin went on to say—

In Brisbane, statistics show that approximately 119 teenagers commit suicide each year ... Suicide is often a result of depression, lack of self esteem, of failure to see a better future. Drugs and alcohol are also an increasingly contributing factor that has only recently been seriously addressed by government.

Her closing remarks were a call to action. She said—

... mental health of Australians is at crisis point, and we as a community are suffering. Education needs to be supported ... by the immediate commitment of appropriate resources.

Caitlin finished with a quote from—

(Time expired)