




Speech by

Dr Chris Davis

MEMBER FOR STAFFORD

Hansard Thursday, 2 August 2012

CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK

 **Dr DAVIS** (Stafford—LNP) (3.41 pm): Catholic Education Week 2012 was launched at St Therese—the Little Flower Church, Kedron—in the electorate of Stafford on 25 July. The staff and students of Franciscans on the Hill, Padua College, Mount Alvernia College, St Anthony's Primary School and the Kedron Catholic Parish helped make the day a truly wonderful event. Among the dignitaries who joined families, students and school staff were Archbishop Mark Coleridge of Brisbane, Catholic Education Week ambassador, General Peter Cosgrove AC, MC, the Queensland Governor, her Excellency Penelope Wensley AC, and Queensland education minister, the Hon. John-Paul Langbroek MP.

The launch was a great tribute to and celebration of the wonderful work done by the Catholic school community. The theme of Catholic Education Week 2012 was 'Celebrating community: Family—Parish—School'. Queensland Catholic Education Commission executive director Mike Byrne spoke of how community is at the heart of the Catholic tradition and how for 2,000 years people have come together in community to share the story of Jesus, to nurture and strengthen each other, and to commit themselves to continuing his mission through good works and acts of kindness.

A highlight of the launch was the presentation by the Governor of the 2012 Spirit of Catholic Education Awards to seven outstanding contributors to Catholic education including one to Missionary Franciscan Sister Pauline Robinson of Mount Alvernia College, Kedron. Minister Langbroek spoke of how for almost 170 years the Catholic school community has strived to provide a high-quality education and encourage a lifelong love of learning. He confirmed the Newman government's commitment to providing a high-quality educational experience to all Queensland children and the important part Catholic education plays in seeing that goal realised. His Grace Archbishop Coleridge spoke of how the breadth of a Catholic education taught the art of living and so contributes to the great social capital of our state and country. I was very pleased and proud to be part of Catholic Education Week and look forward to ongoing support of their vital work and, indeed, all the great educational endeavours in the Stafford electorate.