




Speech by

Dr Chris Davis

MEMBER FOR STAFFORD

Hansard Wednesday, 12 September 2012

QUEENSLAND ART GALLERY AMENDMENT BILL

 **Dr DAVIS** (Stafford—LNP) (10.25 pm): In noting growing medical evidence that sleep deprivation results in a number of adverse health outcomes, I propose to follow Franklin Roosevelt's advice to be sincere, be brief and be seated. Prior to resuming my seat I do, however, want to indicate my support of the Queensland Art Gallery Amendment Bill 2012 and congratulate the minister, her staff and others for their initiative and hard work in relation to it.

Tolstoy defined art thus—

Art is a human activity consisting in this, that one man consciously, by means of certain external signs, hands on to others feelings he has lived through, and that other people are infected by these feelings and also experience them.

So art has value at least in allowing the sharing of experiences and emotions regarding the human condition and, indeed, interpretation of these has stimulated the growth of disciplines such as aesthetics and psychology. Given that appreciation and interpretation of art is a mental activity, it is not surprising that an arts training is associated with high academic performance, including student problem solving and critical thinking skills thus contributing to school success and preparation for one's vocation. I am also aware of research that suggests that adult self-reported interest in aesthetics is related to a temperamental factor of openness, which to me implies greater tolerance and sensitivity and is thus something that should be encouraged, particularly amongst those across the chamber.

Given the ample evidence as to the importance of the work of the Queensland Art Gallery in enhancing the cultural and intellectual strength of our society and also allowing the pure enjoyment of art, I commend this bill to the House as a means of further assisting the gallery to deliver for the people of Queensland.