




Speech by

Dale Shuttleworth

MEMBER FOR FERNY GROVE

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OPTI-MINDS CREATIVE SUSTAINABILITY CHALLENGE

 **Mr SHUTTLEWORTH** (Ferry Grove—LNP) (3.26 pm): This afternoon I rise to talk about the Opti-MINDS Creative Sustainability Challenge, an inclusive team challenge which empowers participants to think, create and communicate.

Mr Crandon: Is it going to be fun?

Mr SHUTTLEWORTH: It should be fun. I was thinking of inviting seven additional people to come along. They might learn something. Opti-MINDS is a creative problem-solving event for teams of participants from preschool to adult within four divisions. It is run by Opti-MINDS Inc. on a not-for-profit basis and has operated for over 20 years. It operates within 14 regions of Queensland from Torres Strait through to Mount Isa and Charleville and most coastal regional cities, with 12 of these regions holding their finals this weekend. The state final will be between 12 and 14 October. The Metro North final will be held at Ferry Grove State High School on Sunday when 32 schools from the region will be participating across three challenges and four age divisions.

I want to thank Michelle Snell, who is the regional director for Opti-MINDS; Mark Breckenridge, who is the Ferry Grove State High School principal; and acting deputy principal Jane Vanelli for their efforts in organising this event for the weekend, and several hundred locals and visitors are expected to attend the finals. Teams are required to solve demanding, open-ended challenges from one of the following categories—language literature, science engineering and social sciences. Teams are required to work together on a long-term challenge for up to six weeks without assistance from anyone outside the team. Students present the product of their ideas—their challenge solution—to a panel of judges and an audience on challenge day. They have 10 minutes in which to present and must do so within a three-by-three-metre performance area. The teams must also participate in an unseen spontaneous challenge on Opti-MINDS Day. This challenge requires a rapid interchange of ideas and the ability to think effectively and creatively and to have well-developed group cooperation skills. The objectives from the Opti-MINDS website—some of which I find very interesting, especially the first one—are to foster creative responsiveness in a can-do culture. I think we would align fairly well to many of its principles. Other objectives are that it fosters flexibility, innovative thinking and functioning and promotes complex thinking and creative problem solving.

Opti-MINDS looks beyond conventional achievement and understands that the pursuit of excellence knows no boundaries. I look forward to meeting and presenting the awards on Sunday afternoon to the award winners at 4 pm and I would encourage anyone to come along.