



Speech by

Hon. Desley Boyle

MEMBER FOR CAIRNS

Hansard Tuesday, 14 February 2012

EDUCATION

 **Hon. D BOYLE** (Cairns—ALP) (10.03 pm): Last week I had the great pleasure to open a new kindergarten in Cairns. Operated by C&K, it is situated on land at Balaclava State School in Cairns. It is a beautiful, state-of-the-art, purpose built building. It already has one full class underway and I am sure it will not be long before the second class will be filled. It was so well led by the teaching staff. It was indeed a happy morning. It was a particularly pleasurable event for me as it will probably be my last official opening as the member for Cairns and the last plaque on which my name as member for Cairns will be printed. I am reminded of how fitting that is at the end of this career of mine as member for Cairns. In my years of growing up my mother was a very strong advocate of education for me and for my three brothers. She made that very plain at all of the schools that we attended, to all of the teachers who had us in their classes and to each of my brothers and to me every day of our lives. In fact, her catchcry, 'education will set you free', became a bit of a family joke. Whenever we wanted to whinge about having too much homework or her cracking the whip over our studies, with a wry smile we would always say, 'Yes, we know, Mum. Education will set you free.'

My mum passed on some years ago. But if it is possible that she could be looking down on me and on us then she would be proud indeed of the achievements of the Bligh government in education over these years—of Anna Bligh as education minister and the changes she made to introduce the prep year, of the further changes as Premier that she has made in preparing Queensland to move grade 7 into high school, of the Mines to Minds program that has been so well received in Cairns and the surrounding areas and of the rollout now of kindergartens with a target of 95 per cent of our young ones attending kindergartens before prep year. It is an excellent reform and improvement to the Queensland education system. I have been proud indeed as the member for Cairns to support all of those changes in education. I have no doubt that they will provide the kind of fillip to these young children's lives that education has made to mine and to my brothers. That education will, in fact, underlie a tremendous future for the children of Queensland.