




Speech by

Freya Ostapovitch

MEMBER FOR STRETTON

Hansard Thursday, 7 June 2012

STRETTON ELECTORATE, SCHOOLS

 **Mrs OSTAPOVITCH** (Stretton—LNP) (3.51 pm): I rise to speak about my recent day shadowing not one but three principals of Calamvale Community College as part of the education department's Principal for a Day initiative. I was very impressed by the politeness of the 2,224 students, especially the little ones in the primary school. It was an absolute delight to go from classroom to classroom and listen to the enthusiastic interaction. I only have two high schools in my electorate and both are unique in that Calamvale Community College and Stretton State College are P-12 state colleges and, I might add, two of the largest state schools in Queensland. Both schools are extremely impressive. I have toured them both and watched great teachers who had the complete attention of their students—students whom I witnessed enjoying what they were doing. These teachers obviously know that the secret to good teaching is engagement through interest with a caring attitude, sprinkled with respect and discipline.

I return to my day shadowing the three principals. I was particularly impressed with Calamvale Community College's unique 'pod' classes. I actually chose Calamvale Community College to specifically understand what the pod system was all about. I have to tell honourable members that I was completely impressed. From the day the little ones start school they are put into a caring community made up of three year levels. The older ones are like brothers and sisters and they move through their primary years together with the same teacher. Pods also allow students to learn at their own pace. I found that this is conducive to harmony and learning, and the proof is in the results these students receive. So impressed am I with the pod system that I would highly recommend Calamvale Community College to prospective residents of Calamvale, Algester and Drewvale.