




Speech by

Steve Davies

MEMBER FOR CAPALABA

Hansard Auto date

ERIC DEERAL INDIGENOUS YOUTH PARLIAMENT

 **Mr DAVIES** (Capalaba—LNP) (9.51 pm): I rise to inform the House of the recent Eric Deeral Indigenous Youth Parliament which I, along with others in the House, had the pleasure of attending and playing a small part in. This event is part of the wider week-long Indigenous youth leadership program which was run in partnership by the department of communities' Office for Youth, Xstrata Coal and the Queensland parliament. Young people from Bamaga, Yarrabah and the Torres Strait as well as many from the south-east corner of the state attended the event, and their enthusiasm, skill and commitment were infectious. One of the ways that I contributed was by helping with the speech writing. It was a real pleasure to be involved in that and to meet many of the young people who were involved. I was helping the opposition in their speech writing.

Mr Latter interjected.

Mr DAVIES: I know. It was a tough call, but they were great young people. One of the young guys I helped was a boy named Tyson. I enjoyed working with him. He was a boy of fuller figure, as I am, but the one thing about Tyson was that he was very nervous. He had real problems putting his thoughts on paper, and I was able to sit with him and talk with him about some of the issues he had gone through. It was a pleasure to see him get up and make his speech with confidence. He spoke about his issues with getting an education and, to be honest, I had a little tear in my eye when I saw Tyson get up and deliver a very, very good speech. One of the other young ladies I had the pleasure of working with was the youth parliament leader of the opposition, a young girl called Renee. Renee gave a speech that would not be out of place in the House here today. She gave a great speech so I was very privileged to be involved with those folk. For quite a number of those who participated, especially those from the Torres Strait, English is their second language. Some even included their mother tongue in their speeches and incorporated aspects of their culture and community to argue their case.

This event was attended by its namesake, Mr Eric Deeral. Mr Deeral was Queensland's first Indigenous MP and he will be 80 this year. He was the first Indigenous person to be elected to an Australian state parliament. He represented the seat of Cook for the National Party, I am proud to say, in the Queensland parliament from 1974 to 1977. It was a great honour for me to shake his hand and to get a photo with this great statesman. I would like to commend Madam Speaker, Fiona Simpson, for taking the initiative to obtain the permission of Uncle Eric—

(Time expired)