




Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

Record of Proceedings, 3 December 2015

ADJOURNMENT

Woodridge Electorate, Year 12 Graduations

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (11.22 pm): We have arrived at the beginning of the end. I speak not just of the parliamentary sitting year but of 2015 itself. Tonight I would like to acknowledge what a wonderful 2015 it has been for the electorate of Woodridge and all of those it encompasses. As this year draws to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to fix a spotlight on some of the inspiring young people of the Woodridge community. I have had the privilege of sharing in some of the final school year events in the Woodridge electorate, in particular events involving the year 12 graduating class of 2015. Tonight I want to put the spotlight on people like Tony Laga'aia, one of this year's outstanding Woodridge State High School captains who delivered a heartfelt speech to his peers at his graduation last month.

Ms Enoch interjected.

Mr DICK: I take the interjection from one of the former distinguished students of Woodridge State High School, my parliamentary colleague and the member for Algester.

I speak about students like Sam, Logan City Special School's whiz-kid, who has such a knack for technology there is no telling where it might lead him. I speak about students like Mark Van Luyn and Arianna Murray from Groves Christian College; Rylee Ruhi, Sau Fao and Kalina Johnson from Mabel Park State High School; and Renee Dobbyn and Conner Ingham from Kingston State College. I have been delighted to host those students for lunch in recent weeks at Parliament House.

But when I speak of talent, I do not just refer to these particular students: I refer to all of the students at all of the Woodridge high schools—in fact, all schools in the Woodridge electorate—who are kicking personal goals in all disciplines. I also want to acknowledge the incredible principals, teachers and staff at schools in the Woodridge electorate who work tirelessly to ensure that every student embraces their ability to be the best they can possibly be.

I would like to take this opportunity to close tonight with words from the valedictory speech recently delivered by Paige Emmett, a graduating student at St Francis College in Crestmead. Paige is an extremely talented young woman. She has her sights set on becoming a paramedic. I am sure that Paige would make a wonderful contribution to the Queensland Ambulance Service should her talents take her in that direction. In the words of Paige to her peers at her graduation on 19 November—

Today is a day of hope, joy, nostalgia and probably tears. But Michael Dell, CEO of the maker of our badly treated laptops said, "As you start your journey, the first thing you should do is throw away that store-bought map and begin to draw your own."

I think I can speak for all that we are unsure about what's to come. However, even though we haven't graduated high school just yet, we have lived through two centuries, three decades and approximately 18 years of existence. We are millennials—a strong, forward-thinking generation who are not afraid to fight for what we believe in, and we stand for ourselves, for each other and for our future, and despite everything we stand united.

I ask you not to be afraid of change: thrive on it. Build your success on it and embrace it. I will define my fear of change today. I will hold my head high and do what I once thought was impossible: walk away.

Now it's your turn to abandon all you hold dear to pursue grander ambitions, and it will be scary at first—no, actually maybe the entire time. When tomorrow comes there will be no epiphany. You will be as clueless as ever. But boy, you will have the world at your feet!

Thank you, Paige. You and the graduating 2015 year 12 students have the world at your feet.