



Speech By  
**Jennifer Howard**


**MEMBER FOR IPSWICH**

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**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**Peter Doherty Awards**

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (2.43 pm): I rise to speak about the 2015 Peter Doherty Awards. The importance of the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics to the future of our state cannot be underestimated. These fields, collectively known as STEM, are the key drivers of innovation—the key to our future economic growth. We must therefore take every opportunity to encourage and recognise the high achievements of our young people in these crucial fields. That is why it gives me great pleasure today to acknowledge the achievement of Hayden Randall from Ipswich Grammar School in my electorate. Hayden recently received an award for outstanding senior science student in the 2015 Peter Doherty Awards. These awards take their name from eminent Queensland and Nobel Prize winning scientist, Professor Peter Doherty, who remains a role model for students of science and technology.

I am pleased to say that these awards, managed by Education Queensland, recognise Queensland students, teachers, support staff and schools who excel in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. In 2014 Hayden was selected to attend the QUT vice-chancellor's STEM for schools camp and received a grant from the University of Southern Queensland. I congratulate Hayden on his hard work and his passion and I congratulate the teaching and support staff and principal Rob Henderson of Ipswich Grammar School for their continued dedication to the students of their school, which remains one of the premier schools in Queensland. Each beneficiary of the awards receives a \$5,000 prize and recipients this year included teachers, support officers, schools and 20 year 12 students like Hayden from around Queensland. These students represent some of the very brightest and best of our current crop of science, mathematics and technology students.

Over the past decade Queensland has experienced strong growth in workforce skills in the STEM areas. However, over the same period there has been a fall in students studying these subjects at school and university. The Palaszczuk government is committed to preparing our young people for the challenges of the future to help them become the innovators of tomorrow. It is fantastic that this government continues to recognise the achievements of students, support officers and teachers. The Peter Doherty Awards have a proud 11-year record of highlighting and rewarding outstanding science, technology, engineering and maths talent in our education system. The awards are one way this government helps promote the importance of STEM subjects as we prepare Queensland students for the challenges of tomorrow.