




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR NUDGE

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ADJOURNMENT

Australian Catholic University

 **Ms LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (10.14 pm): Banyo has a long tradition and history of Catholic educational training dating back to 1863 when land was first acquired for the Pius XII Provincial Seminary, now St Paul's Theological College, at Banyo in the heart of my electorate. For over 70 years young men trained at the Banyo Seminary for a life of mission and ministry in the Catholic Church in Queensland and beyond. In 2003 the original seminary opened its doors to welcome the Australian Catholic University and the new McAuley campus was established, replacing the former Brisbane campus at Mitchelton. Australian Catholic University, or ACU, has seven campuses across Australia and celebrates its 25th anniversary this year. Over the past 12 years, McAuley campus has transformed into one of the fastest growing university sites in Australia with over 5,000 students and in excess of 650 staff. The campus is steeped in tradition, with the original buildings of the former seminary playing a key part in the campus design. But equally McAuley campus is vibrant, innovative and forward thinking with the construction of a new multidisciplinary health clinic, new psychology clinics, early childhood learning centre, outdoor sports court and Indigenous reflective space in recognition of Banyo's strong Indigenous spiritual links. But by far the most significant new development on the site is the construction of 'building T', as it has been known, completed in November last year. This landmark building has transformed the heart of the campus—a state-of-the-art space for postgraduate and professional education for learning, research and public engagement.

While hard to do justice to the aesthetics of the building with words, the three-storey building to be named after St John Paul II is designed in a cruciform plan with a magnificent reflective glass front façade. As you approach the building, you see the adjacent heritage Holy Spirit Chapel and community court reflected on the glass facade of the building. I am far from an aficionado of building design, but it is quite stunning and I acknowledge the expertise of project architects Conrad Gargett in this regard. The St John Paul II building was constructed at a cost of \$25 million by local Banyo builders Tomkins and has been entered into the Master Builders Housing and Construction Awards to be assessed later this month. I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge the leadership of Associate Vice-Chancellor Professor Jim Nyland, who commenced with ACU at the end of 2011. Professor Nyland has guided McAuley campus through a period of exceptional growth and is a man of vision and distinction. The official blessing, naming and opening of the building will take place on the 28th of this month. I am delighted, as is ACU, that the Premier will be in attendance along with ACU Vice-Chancellor, Greg Craven; the Most Reverend Archbishop Mark Coleridge, Archbishop of Brisbane; Pro-Vice-Chancellor Jim Nyland; and the ACU community to celebrate this momentous event in the life of the McAuley campus.