



Speech by

Dr Mark Robinson

MEMBER FOR CLEVELAND

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CLEVELAND ELECTORATE, SCHOOL LEAVERS AND EDUCATION

 **Dr ROBINSON** (Cleveland—LNP) (3.53 pm): The first cohort of school leavers during the Newman LNP government are about to graduate. They have a bright future ahead of them under a government that cares about their education and future opportunities.

I want to congratulate all year 12 students in the Cleveland electorate on their graduation from high school in the next few weeks. To them I say, as I have written to them: this is a very special occasion to share with your family, friends, teachers and school community. You can be justifiably proud of reaching this significant milestone in your life. I am sure you have faced many challenges and changes over the past 12 years. Your graduation is the culmination of your achievements to date and the path that you take from today will have a major impact on your life.

Graduation day will be a time of mixed emotions as you say goodbye to familiar faces and friends and embark on your journey into further education, careers or perhaps avail yourself of the opportunity to work and travel around the world. This is an exciting chapter in your life and I wish you well as you strive to reach your future goals. I trust you will look back in the years to come and remember your schooldays with great fondness. I also hope that the friendships you have made over the years and the many special school time memories that you hold will remain with you forever. Can I also add my congratulations, with a little fatherly pride, to my daughter Melissa, who graduates from year 12 in the class of 2012, following her three older brothers and sisters.

As I have mentioned, education is going ahead in Cleveland. The construction of the year 7 classrooms at Cleveland District State High School is well underway. New chaplains have been approved for the Bayview and Dunwich state schools. The junior high school students from North Stradbroke Island have been successfully transitioned to Cleveland High, and I thank the relevant ministers for their assistance with that.

The new LNP government is getting on with the job of lifting education standards in Cleveland, evidenced by the improvement in NAPLAN test results. The principals, teachers, staff, volunteers and chappies are to be congratulated for their work in 2012 and for such good outcomes. The chaplaincy program has been a resounding success in Cleveland schools and continues to enjoy huge community support. I was most disturbed recently, however, to hear QTU Deputy General Secretary Greg Purches running down the work of chappies. The union is clearly out of touch when 95 per cent of principals want to keep them.

State Education Week celebrations earlier this year were significant in Cleveland, and for me a highlight was participating in a national book reading morning at Cleveland State School, despite being dressed up like a grumpy bear. This was followed by the launch of the S.P.E.A.K. Up Extravaganza—a three-way educational partnership between Cleveland State School, Redland Libraries (Cleveland) and the NAB that aims to encourage children to read and express themselves. Partnerships between schools, libraries and private companies can provide resources and unique learning opportunities for children that I feel should be encouraged—after all, it takes a community to educate a child.