

FORRESTFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

Statement by Member for Forrestfield

MR N.W. MORTON (Forrestfield) [12.51 pm]: On Wednesday, 3 April 2013, I held the official declaration for my electorate at Forrestfield Primary School. The school is situated in the heart of the Forrestfield electorate. The declaration fit well with the school's current focus on Parliament and government. Indeed, many of the year 7 students will be visiting Canberra later this year. It was of great interest that I spoke to the students about the importance of our democracy and, furthermore, the importance of making their vote count. The young people of today are the custodians of our robust democracy. They need to engage with the political process so that they are aware of how important their action is in this process.

I am most grateful to the principal, Diane Greenaway, and the many staff who welcomed me to the school so graciously with a whole school assembly followed by a tour of the school and morning tea. Certainly, as a former deputy principal, I appreciate the values, programs and curriculum that are being delivered within this local school. It was encouraging to see the fantastic initiatives that are occurring within the school. One of these programs and initiatives is the community kitchen garden, which was officially opened by the Minister for Education, Hon Peter Collier, in October last year. This program has gone from strength to strength and is run and maintained through the energy and enthusiasm of the staff and, undeniably, the efforts of the entire local community. Further to this, the school runs a talented and gifted program for visual arts. After personally viewing the artwork, I know that there is great talent abounding within this program, which is most ably run by the art teacher, Mr Rob Gear. I was most fortunate to receive some samples of this artwork, which is proudly displayed within my electorate office. I will conclude by saying that I am most impressed with the energetic, innovative and dedicated staff and community who are working to improve educational outcomes for the students at Forrestfield Primary School.