



Heather Butler, MP

Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier

Friday, 26 June 2009

Bridgewater-Gagebrook Mentoring Young Students

Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier Heather Butler today paid tribute to the Bridgewater-Gagebrook Co-Pilots Program aimed at mentoring young students.

“This program is a shining example of what great things can happen when communities really work together,” Ms Butler said at a celebration and presentation of certificates.

Ms Butler, a former teacher at Bridgewater High, said the mentoring program had been a huge success.

“I know how inspirational teachers, school staff and community members can really make a difference in the life of students.”

“Having a great mentor really has the power to change your life.”

A total of 75 students in Grade 4 to Grade 11 from Bridgewater High, Claremont College, and East Derwent Primary, Gagebrook, and Herdsmans Cove Primary Schools, are taking part in the program

Ms Butler said that since the Co-Pilots Program began a decade ago it had spread Statewide and proved to be of enormous value to the entire community.

“I acknowledge the contribution of Bridgewater High School leading the program through its Coordinator Eve Mills. Eve works tirelessly with the schools across the Federation to ensure the program is successful.”

“One of the best things about this program is its flexibility and inclusivity.”

“The very fact that the Bridgewater-Gagebrook program includes students from Grade 4 to 11 highlights this, as it has created an opportunity for cross-age tutoring and one-on-one mentoring to occur over the past few months.”

Ms Butler said the State Government, through the Department of Premier and Cabinet’s At School, On Time, Ready For Work pilot project and Learning Services (South-East), has contributed \$25,000 per year towards this great program since 2005.

“Funding is continuing next financial year – the fifth year of a program which has grown from strength to strength from 11 students in 2006 to 75 in 2009.”

“Schools are the lifeblood of local communities...they’re the venues for community fairs, sports events and even church services. And it’s my belief that together we can build on this even further.”

“We want schools to be meeting places, information hubs and places where we can all continue to learn throughout our lives,” Ms Butler said.