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INDEPENDENT MEMBER FOR TAMWORTH

MEDIA RELEASE

Parents keen to be partners in student education at Werris Creek Public School

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A highly effective program at Werris Creek Public School, which includes parents as partners in their child's education, has potential for broader application at other schools according to Member for Tamworth Peter Draper.

Mr Draper gave a welcome address at the Parents as Partners in the Schooling Process program held at the school this week. The program had a theme of 'working together' and was attended by about 30 parents not all of whom had children at Werris Creek Public School.

"School principal Ian Lobsey is the driving force behind the move to include parents in the education process of their children is this way. The fact that parents from other schools are wanting to be included the program proves the school has identified a real need in the school community," Mr Draper said.

The program, which is unique to Werris Creek, covered a variety of topics such as quality teaching, the new maths curriculum, healthy eating, speech problems, managing a difficult child, community projects and was complemented with entertainment provided by students.

Mr Lobsey said traditionally parents were invited to the school on staff development days but were often outnumbered by teachers and felt "out of their depth".

He said the aim of the program was to educate parents about their role in student education with the focus being on parent development enabling them in turn to help their children.

Mr Draper said feedback from parents about the useful application of the unique program was positive indicating it was worthy of consideration by other schools.

Federal Member for New England Tony Windsor was also in attendance on Tuesday to give an introduction to the program while School Education Director for the Tamworth School Education Area Rob Lewis gave a keynote address over breakfast. The catering was provided and funded by the school's Aboriginal parenting group ASSPAA.

End Release

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