



Speech by

**Andrew Cripps**

**MEMBER FOR HINCHINBROOK**

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## QUEENSLAND PARLIAMENTARY INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

 **Mr CRIPPS** (Hinchinbrook—LNP) (3.43 pm): Since being elected to this parliament in September 2006, I have supported the Queensland Parliamentary Internship Program, acting as a parliamentary supervisor for several students who have enrolled in the program as part of their tertiary studies. My support for this program is due to the fact that I benefited from participating in it while I was a student at the University of Queensland. Today I am pleased to table in the House a copy of a report submitted by Ms Maritsa Samios, an intern for whom I have acted as parliamentary supervisor this year through the Queensland Parliamentary Internship Program.

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Parliamentary Internship Program paper by Maritsa Samios, titled 'Australia's Federal System: Is there a need for reform?' [5923].

Maritsa has submitted a report I consider to be worthy of consideration by all members in this House. The report is titled *Australia's federal system: is there a need for reform?* The report is a very well researched and detailed analysis of the Australian Federation. It canvasses legal, economic and political questions about the health of the Australian Federation and moots possible options for reform to strengthen it in the future.

The report compares the circumstances of the Australian Federation to other Western Liberal democratic countries that are governed under the Westminster system—namely, Canada with its similar federal structure and the United Kingdom with its relatively recent experience of devolving certain powers to parliaments in Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales. Refreshingly, Maritsa argues cogently for reforms from a federalist perspective and proposes realistic mechanisms and policies to pursue this goal. For an unreconstructed states righter like me, it is reassuring to know that at least a few undergraduates are still thinking for themselves and holding out against the relentless campaign by many to centralise power in the Commonwealth by various means against the spirit of the Australian Constitution, which our founding fathers painstakingly drafted to prudently preserve the rights of the states. I commend the report to all members.