



**Launch of National Education and Employment  
Foundation by His Excellency the Governor-General  
Carlton Crest Hotel, Brisbane  
Wednesday 26 November 2003, 12:45pm**

**Expression of thanks**

---

**Chief Justice Paul de Jersey AC**

Your Excellency, we are all greatly honoured that you should be present with us here today: we are delighted and gratified that you have lent your support to the Foundation – both in accepting the office of Patron-in-chief and in formally launching the Foundation.

In these days of acute focus on national security, it may have dismayed when the National Education and Employment Forum identified the source of major challenge, not as nuclear weapons, or refugees, or invasion, but the sacrifice of young minds and young capabilities.

This is graphically and tragically illustrated daily in the courts of law, with the unrelenting parade of offenders in conditions of permanent welfare dependency, of children without supporting parents – children indeed emerging from an educational system said to leave 11% of school leavers functionally illiterate.

One of the most powerful people in our contemporary world, Rupert Murdoch, has suggested that, absent greater investment in our educational institutions, Australia risks what he terms global irrelevance.

This problem is not susceptible of ready resolution through ordinary governmental processes. It is I believe the independence of this Foundation



**Launch of National Education and Employment Foundation by His Excellency the  
Governor-General  
Carlton Crest Hotel, Brisbane  
Wednesday 26 November 2003, 12:45pm  
Expression of thanks**

---

which positions it so well to act as independent coordinator or facilitator across the spectrum of relevant entities and people.

It is therefore wonderfully fitting, Sir, that with your ultimate national independence and significance, you express, by your presence here today, your imprimatur and encouragement.

Ladies and Gentlemen, would you please join me in warmly thanking His Excellency?