



Speech by

**VAUGHAN JOHNSON**

**MEMBER FOR GREGORY**

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Hansard 12 November 1998

**CENTENARY STATE HIGH SCHOOL**

**Mr JOHNSON** (Gregory—NPA) (7.06 p.m.): Next year in Jindalee the new Centenary State High School will open, thanks to the hard work of the previous Education Minister, Bob Quinn, and the former member for Mount Ommaney, Bob Harper. The opening of that new high school will also result in a change to the eligibility criteria for school transport subsidies.

As the former local member, Bob Harper put a case to me, as the then Minister, as well as to the then Premier and Treasurer for a phasing out arrangement to allow local students already enrolled at other high schools to complete Years 11 and 12 at those schools if they wished, rather than disrupting their schooling. This was an arrangement that Mr Harper was perfectly entitled to announce, with my support, prior to the election. Mr Borbidge also supported Mr Harper's work on this phasing-out arrangement at a chamber of commerce function prior to the election.

The current member for Mount Ommaney also campaigned on the issue and indicated that she would form committees and lobby Ministers, leading parents to believe that she would also see change to the subsidy scheme. Now that the Labor Government is in power, the people of the Centenary suburbs realise that they have been let down. Labor has failed them. To try to cover up this failure, the Minister for Transport attacked Mr Harper under privilege on 18 September, accusing him of dishonesty about the phasing-out arrangements. I am sure that Mr Harper would like the Minister to repeat that attack outside this House.

The current member for Mount Ommaney has clearly shown her attitude to the problem being faced by children and their parents, who have for a number of years been valued members of other school communities in Brisbane. In the South West News of 2 September 1998, she was reported as saying—

"Whenever a school is built, children in the area are expected to go there."

So much for all of her pre-election promises! The parents of Mount Ommaney are most unhappy and will not forget.

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