



Speech by

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MEMBER FOR SANDGATE

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## EDUCATION AND SPORTING FACILITIES

**Mr NUTTALL** (Sandgate—ALP) (11.13 p.m.): The issue on which I wish to speak this evening is one about which I have spoken in this Parliament before, namely, the greater use of facilities that I believe are currently underutilised. I am speaking mainly in relation to primary and secondary schools, TAFE colleges and universities.

Everybody would like a major facility in their backyard. One of the difficulties that we as a society and as a Government have is that the resources and the money are simply not available to continue to provide adequate resources for everybody's needs. Take a school library as an example. Currently, at the end of the school day at a secondary school, the school is locked up and the students go home and do their homework in preparation for the next day. In the past I have raised this issue with various Ministers from both sides of the Chamber. Given the importance of computer technology in today's society, I believe that school libraries, in particular secondary school libraries, should be open not only after school but well into the evening and also on weekends. If that means that we are required to fund extra positions for people to work in libraries at those times, that should be factored into school budgets.

It is improper for us to expect young people in secondary schools to have access to modern technology, such as the Internet, in their homes. I do not believe that all students can afford that. We have these resources at secondary schools. Why do we continue to deny access to those resources over weekends? This is applicable not only to libraries but also assembly halls and sports facilities in schools, TAFE colleges and universities.

Recently, on a Saturday evening while in Toowoomba I had the opportunity to attend a basketball game at the Toowoomba university. I was astounded and most impressed by the facilities that that university had. It would have cost many millions of dollars to build those facilities, yet they are accessible only to university students. Basketball, soccer and hockey clubs in need of such facilities are expected to build their own facilities, yet just up the road these facilities have already been built at universities, TAFE colleges and so on.

I do not see why we continue to say, "If you want something, put in an application, raise funds and try to get some money." It is impractical to continue to duplicate facilities not only in small regional towns but also in larger towns, such as Brisbane and its suburbs. My electorate contains the third largest TAFE college in the State. Parents have approached me numerous times saying, "Why can't we access the library or the sporting facilities?" They also ask why they cannot access the facilities of the home economics and manual arts rooms at the local high school. I empathise with that view. I do not believe that either side of politics has done enough in addressing those issues. It is improper to ask young people to have access to those study facilities in their home. If we want our young people to have an opportunity to move into—

Time expired.