



Speech by

JOHN MICKEL

MEMBER FOR LOGAN

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EARLY INTERVENTION AND PARENTING SUPPORT PROGRAM

Mr MICKEL (Logan—ALP) (7.20 p.m.): I want to defend the parents of Logan against the Opposition's disgraceful attack on the Government's early intervention and parenting support initiative and the School Nurse Program. These are some of the most important and popular initiatives of the Beattie Government. The Positive Parenting Program was launched by the Minister for Health at Browns Plains earlier this year. It offers hope to parents who are struggling with the very real problems of raising children. The program was developed by the Parenting and Family Support Centre at the University of Queensland and has won acclaim around Australia and around the world. All the evidence says that this program works, that it improves relationships within families and helps ease the stress that builds up and causes so many problems in our community.

I believe that all of the members opposite would be horrified at the suggestion by their Health spokesman that this program should be cut. Rather than attacking families, we are backing them. The child health nurses in my electorate are excited by the PPP program. It gives them additional knowledge and skills that they can in turn pass on to parents, particularly young parents, with troublesome children in the two to seven year age group.

While the Minister for Health is in the Chamber, I have the perfect opportunity to say to her that the Browns Plains State High school and Park Ridge State High School have a submission in at the moment for the School Nurse Program. I know that that the Minister is very attentive to that. I have read the submission; it is an outstanding submission. It will make an excellent contribution to that program, and I know that the Minister will not knock it back. This also gives me an opportunity to say that the Minister will extend the service, of course, up to the Kingston State High School and to the Marsden State High School. All those parents up there are very, very deserving. I know that she understands their problems first-hand. I will be taking a copy of her support back to these people after I finish my speech here tonight. I know that the Minister supports the program. I look for her support for those submissions.

Time expired.
