



Speech by

**JULIE ATTWOOD**

**MEMBER FOR MOUNT OMMANEY**

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Hansard 27 May 1999

**MIDDLE PARK STATE SCHOOL**

**Mrs ATTWOOD** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (7.09 p.m.): The education needs of my electorate are vast. There is always a long list of priorities of capital works and maintenance needs before Budget time. Sometimes projects which appear at the top of the list one year lose their priority rating as other urgent issues are pushed forward.

The Middle Park State School Parents and Citizens Association has been working hard to provide the best facilities and resources for the children at that school. Since the school's inception in 1985, the number of students has increased from 200 to 715. This figure does not include an ever-increasing number of children in the preschool. New schools that are built provide for the future and allow space for expansion in numbers. The Middle Park State School's original plan indicated that future library expansions were intended. But this has never happened, despite the huge increase in the number of students.

The librarian at the school has had to draw up a complex roster system to provide basic, short-term access to the facilities and resources of the library. Computer technology at the library is rarely used because of the need to rotate children quickly in and out of the facility. For the past six years, principals have tried to draw attention to this issue, but the project has been continually put on the backburner. Workplace health and safety issues could be a feature if it were not for the careful planning and coordination of the librarian.

As the local member for Mount Ommaney, I would like to see this library expanded to at least meet the population requirements of the school. This will enable all of the children to maximise their use of these learning facilities, much of which were provided by the dedicated P & C. We must give our children the best opportunities possible. They are our future. I thank the Honourable Dean Wells for listening to our concerns and taking the issues facing the Middle Park State School on board.

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