



Speech by

**Hon. ANNA BLIGH**

**MEMBER FOR SOUTH BRISBANE**

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Hansard 2 August 2001

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Bray Park State School**

**Hon. A. M. BLIGH** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Minister for Education) (9.53 a.m.), by leave: Yesterday morning an unfortunate incident happened at Bray Park State School, affecting a large number of students. I understand that up to 50 students were affected by petrol fumes, some had headaches, others had nausea and a general feeling of being unwell. Seventeen children were subsequently taken to hospital. All children were, thankfully, discharged from hospital yesterday. This is one of those incidents that no-one wants to happen. It is extremely worrying for parents, teachers and the community in general. But when something like this does occur, it is reassuring to all to know that our emergency procedures work.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my own department, Education Queensland, and, in particular, the principal of Bray Park State School, Mr Matt Bagley, and his teachers for acting quickly in the interests of children at the school and for contacting parents so promptly. I would also like to thank Police and Emergency Services staff, in particular fire and rescue officers who evacuated the students, cordoned off the area and isolated the problem. Thank you also to the ambulance officers who were on the scene promptly attending to students, and Queensland Health staff who were also on the scene, plus the staff at the Royal Children's Hospital and the Redcliffe Hospital. All of these departments worked together well.

Of course, I say again that this incident is the sort of thing that we all hope will never happen, but I can reassure parents and the community that our emergency systems worked well yesterday. The circumstances surrounding the incident at Bray Park State School are being thoroughly investigated by my department and the appropriate action will be taken to avoid any recurrence in the future. I have also asked the Director-General of Education Queensland to remind all principals of the dangers of chemicals and the requirements of the workplace health and safety legislation.

Bray Park State School is in the electorate of Kurwongbah. The local member, Linda Lavarch, has asked me to tell the school community that her thoughts are with them at this time, as are mine and, I assume, all members of the House.

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