



Speech by

Hon. ANNA BLIGH

MEMBER FOR SOUTH BRISBANE

Hansard 30 October 2001

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Jinibara State School; Mr J. Dale

Hon. A. M. BLIGH (South Brisbane—ALP) (Minister for Education) (9.55 a.m.), by leave: Mr Speaker, as members will be aware, an unfortunate incident occurred at Jinibara State School at Narangba last Thursday involving a student and the Deputy Principal of the school. Deputy Principal John Dale is now in a critical condition in hospital. Our thoughts and the thoughts of Queensland's entire education community are with John Dale and his family at this very difficult time. Education Queensland has given an undertaking to the deputy principal's family to protect his privacy and will do everything possible to respect their wishes at this time.

Education Queensland is investigating the matter and is cooperating with Queensland police, who are also investigating the incident. It is therefore not appropriate to comment further on the deputy principal's medical condition, to speculate on circumstances surrounding the incident, or reach any conclusions about the matter.

Guidance officers and counsellors worked closely with the school last week and will continue to be available as they are needed. Professional counselling and support have also been offered to the student and his family. The student is currently on suspension pending the outcome of Education Queensland's investigation and the police investigation.

Every teacher and every student in every school is entitled to a safe and supportive environment. I am determined to ensure that the investigations into this matter will not only shed light on the circumstances surrounding this tragic incident but will also help us to improve the safety of our schools in the future.
