



Speech by

Hon. ANNA BLIGH

MEMBER FOR SOUTH BRISBANE

Hansard 1 November 2001

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Jinibara State School, Mr J. Dale

Hon. A. M. BLIGH (South Brisbane—ALP) (Minister for Education) (9.46 a.m.), by leave: Queensland's education community is saddened today to learn of the loss of a valued friend and a highly respected educator. It is with regret that I inform the House that Mr John Dale, a teacher of 26 years and the Deputy Principal of Jinibara State School for the past five years, has passed away.

Earlier this week, I informed members of this House that Mr Dale was involved in an unfortunate incident at Jinibara State School at Narangba last Thursday. On behalf of this parliament, Education Queensland and our government, I extend our condolences to John's family. Our thoughts, too, go out to Mr Dale's many close friends, his colleagues past and present and, of course, the students and staff at Jinibara State School.

I would also like to offer my thanks to those staff who so selflessly provided all the assistance they could to Mr Dale before medical help arrived at the school. Those close to him knew him as a man dedicated to his profession and committed to the communities which he served. Most importantly, he was dedicated to the children over whose lives he had a profound influence. He will be sadly missed.

This is a terribly difficult time for the Jinibara State School community. I have complete confidence in the principal, staff and school community working closely with each other through this period. My department will continue to provide whatever level of support is needed to the staff, the students and their parents. Professional counsellors and guidance officers have been supporting the school community all week, and I would like to commend them for the work they are continuing to do under these most trying circumstances.

In relation to this tragic incident, I do not propose to speculate in any way on possible causes or the specific circumstances, except to say that Education Queensland is continuing its thorough examination and investigation of the matter.
