



Speech by

Hon. ANNA BLIGH

MEMBER FOR SOUTH BRISBANE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Mr J. Dale; Jinibara State School, Narangba

Hon. A. M. BLIGH (South Brisbane—ALP) (Minister for Education) (9.48 a.m.), by leave: Last month I informed members of an unfortunate incident involving the Deputy Principal of Jinibara State School at Narangba. It was with deep regret and sadness that I informed members that Mr John Dale, a teacher of 26 years and the school's deputy principal for the past five years, had passed away. My department is continuing to provide a high level of support to all those who require it through this difficult period. As part of that support, members of the school community have expressed the need to understand how and why this tragic event occurred. In this respect, Education Queensland has now completed its review of this incident and I table the report of that investigation for the information of members.

I would like to assure members of my personal and public commitment to ensuring a speedy response to recommendations arising from this report. All nine recommendations will be accepted. The report represents a thorough examination of the events that occurred at Jinibara State School on 25 October and makes nine recommendations, particularly in relation to Education Queensland's future response to issues of a critical nature.

Education Queensland is a large decentralised organisation with almost half a million students and 40,000 teachers in its schools. It is regrettable that traumatic incidents such as this do occur from time to time. I am firm in my resolve to learn from these terrible events, and where the capacity exists to improve the department's practices and services in schools, it will be done as a matter of priority.

Among the report's nine recommendations is the recommendation for a more centralised collection of data and improving the transfer process for students between schools. I have already asked the department to provide me with a range of options by early next year on how best to collect this data in light of this recommendation. The report recommends commending the school staff on their speedy, coordinated and professional approach to the handling of this issue, particularly the quick administering of first aid.

I would like to place on the public record my commendation and the government's commendation of those dedicated staff members who rendered every assistance they could under the most trying and difficult circumstances. The report also recommends increasing the number of school-based staff given first aid training so that as many personnel in schools as possible are well prepared and well trained to deal with a medical emergency. For anyone interested in the details of the report, it is now on the public record.
