



Speech by

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MEMBER FOR IPSWICH

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STATE SCHOOL FUNDING

Ms NOLAN (Ipswich—ALP) (5.36 p.m.): In the last few months Dr David Kemp and the federal government have delivered major blows to state schools across Australia, delivering a funding model that disadvantages them against rich private schools and, just two weeks ago, refusing to address the issues raised in the *Our Future* report by primary school principals.

State schools lay the foundations in life for most Ipswich kids, and those parents, teachers and kids should know that, as their local member, I very much support them. Over the last few months I have had some wonderful experiences at Ipswich schools. As Education 2010 encourages, all are developing their own character and all are providing real support for their kids.

At my old school, Ipswich East, a school that is developing a strong community foundation, kids put on a great federation day, when I was asked to talk about Australia's changing face and values. Raceview State School is currently working hard to organise its centenary celebrations on 1 September, with people coming from as far away as England.

A couple of weeks ago at the Bundamba State School I saw a wonderful year 3 assembly, where kids celebrated the diversity of their backgrounds. Ipswich Special School is developing excellent anger management practices. Silkstone State School is providing a safety net for kids with real problems through the alternative schooling pilot. At Blair, teacher Dale Kitching, who taught me in grade 2, is getting her grade 7s involved with innovative teaching methods. And Bremer High is about to make a big step towards having facilities comparable to local private schools, with work having just started on the \$2 million multimedia centre.

The funding issues raised by primary schools are very important. And whereas the Howard government ignores them, the state schools in Ipswich are fully supported by the Beattie government. In the meantime, Ipswich kids are getting the best academic and social support possible because of the excellent work by local schools, local parents and very active P&Cs.
