



Speech by

Stirling Hinchliffe

MEMBER FOR STAFFORD

Hansard Tuesday, 25 November 2008

YEAR OF PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

Mr HINCHLIFFE (Stafford—ALP) (9.40 pm): Following the Minister for Education's comments to the House this morning about the Year of Physical Activity, I would like to report on the contribution of one school in my inner northside electorate. During 2008 the iconic Stafford State School community has undertaken a 'jog around Australia'. This initiative involves students completing 500-metre laps of a set course and accumulating kilometres towards a progressive school tally to equate jogging right around the Australian mainland. Weather permitting, students jog or walk around the oval for a period of approximately 15 minutes each morning. As well as contributing towards the overall school tally of kilometres, students have their own distances recorded which count towards individual milestone awards.

Along the way, the whole school's progress has been tracked on a large map outside Principal Bruce Jeffs's office. The local community is kept informed of this progress through regular updates on the school's changeable sign at the very high profile intersection of Stafford and Webster roads. To date, the school has run a combined distance of 15,165 kilometres around Australia, with just under 1,000 kilometres left to go until they collectively arrive back at Stafford. As of this week, on the map they have just passed through Sydney.

This is a really fantastic effort for a school of only 300 students. Over 100 students have reached the 50-kilometre club milestone, almost 50 students have reached the 100-kilometre club, seven have reached the 150-kilometre club and one year 4 student has so far surpassed the 200-kilometre club mark. Stafford State School staff tell me that since commencing the 'jog around Australia' in early February students are noticeably fitter and more active, while concentration levels of students during morning sessions have also improved.

I congratulate year 3/4 teacher David Sandilands, who proposed the concept to the school community as a means of embracing the two hours of weekly physical activity policy and as a way of celebrating the Year of Physical Activity. I also acknowledge the commitment of Principal Bruce Jeffs to the Year of Physical Activity. Mr Jeffs is facing a serious health issue and I know that Acting Principal Lee Martin will bring the whole school home to Stafford on the map over the next couple of weeks.