



Speech by

Mark Ryan

MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD

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MORAYFIELD ELECTORATE, EDUCATION

Mr RYAN (Morayfield—ALP) (7.51 pm): I am incredibly proud of the work of the teachers, staff and students from the schools in the Morayfield state electorate. I am passionate about the value of education because, when governments invest in education, we invest in people, we invest in the potential of people, we invest in opportunities for people. That is why I am particularly pleased that the 2010 Queensland state budget invests heavily in education programs and initiatives.

This year's budget allocates over \$9.5 billion to Queensland's education system. This includes the recruitment of 316 additional teachers and teacher aides and funding for an additional 5,000 teacher aide hours per week. In addition, further funds will be made available to support the continued expansion of kindergarten programs into long-day-care services and to establish a new scholarship scheme to help eligible early childhood education and care professionals upgrade their qualifications.

In the Morayfield state electorate, this budget will fund, among other things, the construction of new classrooms at Caboolture Special School and literacy, numeracy and science teaching coaches. As State Education Month comes to an end for this year, school communities around Queensland can celebrate the record investment by this state government in local schools. One of the highlights of the last month was State Education Week. As part of State Education Week, state schools around Queensland opened their doors to the broader community. This annual celebration provides our schools with an opportunity to display all aspects of the work and recreation of each school community. During the week, our community can specifically recognise the students, teachers, parents and carers whose efforts in the classroom, and as part of the broader school family, we can be rightly proud of.

Members of parliament have the opportunity to more fully understand the valuable work of our schools by participating in State Education Week. As part of State Education Week, I spent time as principal for a day at Caboolture Special School. As principal for a day at Caboolture Special School, I participated in and presented certificates at the school assembly, did some paperwork on behalf of the principal, attended a staff meeting, toured the school and discussed important matters with one of the school captains, Paul Smith. Paul is a great young man who is passionate about his school and the broader community. Paul is an impressive advocate for his school. I take this opportunity to thank principal Jan Biggam, deputy principal Ric Day, and all teachers, staff and students of Caboolture Special School for their hospitality.

I also spent time as principal for a day at Morayfield East State School and had the opportunity to participate in a question and answer session with year 7 students. The year 7 students at Morayfield East State School are very interested in the role of government and have some great ideas for our community. They are great role models for the younger students and I wish them well for their future schooling. Thank you to principal Dr Brian Gray and all the people at Morayfield East State School for making me feel so welcome.