




Speech by

Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES

Hansard Thursday, 24 March 2011

GREENSLOPES ELECTORATE, EDUCATION

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Greenslopes—ALP) (Minister for Education and Industrial Relations) (7.19 pm): During the previous sitting week of parliament earlier this month I was pleased to update the House about numerous leaders who have been appointed at schools within the Greenslopes electorate. Given my new role as the education minister, I would like to continue the theme I began during the last sitting week and provide further information to the House about achievements within the education sector in the state electorate of Greenslopes.

Earlier this week I was delighted to announce the locations of 166 kindergartens that will be fitted with solar power units as part of the Bligh government's Solar Kindergartens Installation Program. Two of these kindergartens to be powered by the sun are within the electorate of Greenslopes. Both the C&K Coorparoo Community Kindergarten in Meridian Street, Coorparoo, and the C&K Holland Park Kindergarten on Logan Road at Holland Park will benefit from this program.

I want to congratulate the people associated with these kindergartens for their foresight in being part of the solar kindies program: director Chris-Anne Aroney and management committee president Pam White at C&K Coorparoo; and from C&K Holland Park, director Leanne Austin and management committee president Carrie Simpson. It was great to phone these kindies on the day of the announcement and let them know that they had been successful. Not only will these solar power units help save the planet by reducing the amount of greenhouse gas being produced, they will also help reduce electricity bills by up to \$400 each year at each kindy. The solar kindies program is part of the Bligh government's ongoing reform agenda within the education sector.

Another major reform within this sector is the introduction of universal access to kindergarten services for all Queensland children. By 2014 every child of kindergarten age will have access to an early years program delivered by a qualified teacher. The state government has been rolling out our kindy program since early 2010, with more than 700 providers now approved across Queensland. This includes nine providers in the electorate of Greenslopes. Recently approved providers include the C&K kindy at Clough Street in Mount Gravatt West; the Holland Park Child Care Centre at Seville Road, Holland Park; the Greenslopes Child Care Centre at Denman Street, Greenslopes; and the Adeona Early Exploration Centre at Stanley Street, Coorparoo. Each of these services has been approved as a kindergarten program provider by the state government and I will be dropping in to see each of them during the next month and congratulating them on their achievements.

Another achievement that deserves recognition is Coorparoo C&K's milestone in reaching its 50th anniversary of operation this year. This is quite an extraordinary feat for the kindy. When this kindergarten opened Brisbane was quite a different place. The tallest building was the City Hall clock tower and trams still rumbled along Old Cleveland Road. The fact that a small kindergarten opened its doors at Meridian Street is testament to the foresight of the local community, which obviously recognised the importance of providing the local children with a flying start to their education. This same foresight is still apparent within the current kindy community and with director Chris-Anne Aroney and staff, as they will be part of our solar kindergartens program. Congratulations to Coorparoo C&K kindy community for your achievements, and to all the kindergartens and early child care centres in the Greenslopes electorate for the important work you do in educating our children.