



Speech by


Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES

Hansard Wednesday, 26 October 2011

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Tuckshop Day

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Greenslopes—ALP) (Minister for Education and Industrial Relations) (2.15 pm): Tuckshop volunteers have been the backbone of school communities across Queensland for decades. Whether they are in state, Catholic or independent schools, volunteers and convenors work tirelessly to help provide students with good, wholesome tuckshop food. In fact, more than 20,000 people volunteer their time on a regular basis to provide this vital service to Queensland school students.

Tuckshop volunteers are unsung heroes of our school communities. But that will change next Friday, 4 November, with Queensland's very first Tuckshop Day. From this year, the contributions of tuckshop workers will be officially recognised on the first Friday of November each year, starting next week. School communities, and communities in general, are encouraged to show their tuckshop volunteers how much they are appreciated. This collective pat on the back for volunteers is part of our determination to raise the profile of tuckshops and recruit even more volunteers.

I can also announce today that the state government is embarking on a recruiting blitz to encourage more people, including grandparents and community members, to become tuckshop volunteers. Many tuckshops need more volunteers to ensure they remain viable. So I encourage all of those who are in a position to assist to help out at their local tuckshop. With our increasingly busy lifestyles, mums and dads are finding it harder to find the time to commit regularly to a shift in their child's tuckshop. I hope that we can find ways to get grandparents, friends and community members who are willing and able to help out and provide assistance in their local tuckshop.

Finally, as part of our plan to lift the profile of tuckshops, I can announce that Brisbane chef David Pugh, owner of the acclaimed Restaurant Two, will be the state's first Tuckshop Champion. David is a keen advocate for Queensland produce and is an ideal person to support our tuckshops and our healthy-eating strategies. Tuckshop Day is further evidence of the Bligh government's commitment to building stronger communities and providing children with the best possible support and opportunities during their school years.