



Speech by


**Mark Ryan**

**MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD**

Hansard Tuesday, 5 April 2011

---

## TEACHER EDUCATION CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE

 **Mr RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (12.18 pm): This Queensland Labor government continues to invest in our teaching professionals and in educational opportunities for our young people and continues to support initiatives which provide our kids with a flying start to their education. Last month I was very pleased to welcome the Minister for Education to the Morayfield state electorate for a Queensland-wide announcement at the Morayfield East State School. This announcement related to the establishment of four new teacher education centres of excellence, including one at the Morayfield East State School. These teacher education centres of excellence are about further enhancing the great work that our teachers are doing every day in our schools.

Most people will remember from their schooling days that one teacher who changed their lives, that one teacher who connected with them, that one teacher who inspired them to reach their full potential. I was lucky—I had Mr Voss in physics, Mr Taylor in modern history and Ms Wilkins in English encouraging me to seize the educational opportunities before me. These centres of excellence are about developing more Mr Vosses, more Mr Taylors and more Ms Wilkinses. These centres of excellence are about supporting our teacher graduates to become outstanding teacher professionals who have the potential to change our young people's lives. What a worthy vision that is. By investing in our teaching professionals we invest in our young people and, in turn, we invest in the future of our communities.

The Morayfield East State School will be the base for the Morayfield cluster schools centre of excellence. This means that not only will Morayfield East State School benefit from this significant investment in teacher training and excellence but Morayfield State School, Minimbah State School, Morayfield State High School and Jinibara State School will also benefit.

Each teacher education centre of excellence will focus on a specific area of teacher training excellence. For instance, the centre at Kelvin Grove State College will focus on early childhood education and the middle phase of learning. The one at Morayfield East State School will focus on improved student performance in low socioeconomic areas. The Mount Stuart cluster schools centre of excellence will focus on Indigenous students and community engagement. The centre at Aspley State Special School will focus on special school education. The one at Benowa state and state high schools will focus on science and mathematics education.

As noted by Professor Geoff Masters in his review of the education system in Queensland, we know that there is a strong connection between excellent teacher training, effective teaching and student outcomes. These centres will help us attract and train the best teachers for our schools and will help us continue to offer a world-class quality education to all of Queensland's young people. These centres will partner clusters of Queensland state schools with Queensland universities to ensure high-performing pre-service teachers are classroom ready and are trained in specific targeted priority education disciplines.

I am very proud that this Queensland Labor government is significantly investing in teacher excellence and educational opportunities for our young people. But some people may still ask: why do governments invest in education? Well, the answer is very easy. This Queensland Labor government

invests in programs like the Teacher Education Centres of Excellence program because this government believes in people. This government believes in the potential of young people. This government believes that education is everything; that education is the silver bullet that breaks the cycle of disadvantage and marginalisation. By investing in education, we invest in the potential of our young people. By investing in our young people, we invest in the future of our communities. That is why governments should invest in education. That is why this Queensland Labor government is investing in teacher education centres of excellence.

I would like to take this opportunity to formally congratulate Dr Brian Gray, the principal of Morayfield East State School; Ms Janelle Amos, the principal of Morayfield State High School; Ms Vicky Gahan, the principal of Morayfield State School; Mr Mark Farwell, the principal of Minimbah State School; Mr Brad Fox, the acting principal of Jinibara State School; and teachers Ms Jodie Riek and Ms Sandra Doyle-Robinson for their efforts in respect of the Morayfield schools cluster centre of excellence. They are certainly helping our kids to have a flying start to their education.