



Speech by


**Mark Ryan**

**MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD**

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## **BURPENGARY STATE SCHOOL**

 **Mr RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (10.26 pm): I am very pleased to inform the House that Burpengary State School was among 17 Queensland state schools to share in funding under the Queensland government's Stephanie Alexander kitchen garden program. This recent funding round will provide more than \$925,000 in funding to selected schools and will ensure more students will now be learning about growing vegetables and cooking organic meals. Burpengary State School's share of this funding will support the further development of the school's kitchen and garden program. This includes a vegetable garden, a chook pen and fruit and herb gardens. Mr Ross Tattersall from the Burpengary State School has been instrumental in the establishment of the school's kitchen and garden program, and I commend him and the people from the school who have assisted him.

A few weeks ago I spoke to some year 4 students about the school's garden and kitchen program. The students enthusiastically told me that they were very excited about the program, particularly the bit about the school getting some chooks. I was very quick to confirm with the principal that there will be no roosters on school grounds.

During my visit I was very impressed by the development of the school's kitchen and garden program. The vegetable garden is well developed and the lettuces and cabbages are growing well. The Stephanie Alexander program teaches kids about growing and preparing food and healthy eating habits. These are critical life skills, and I am very happy that the kids from the Burpengary State School will have access to this very popular program. While healthy habits start at home, this program is teaching kids skills that will stay with them for life.

I would also like to take this opportunity to talk about another food related matter and that is the very special thanks we owe to our school tuckshop volunteers. I was very pleased to hear the education minister announce today that the inaugural Queensland tuckshop day will be celebrated on Friday, 4 November. As many members would be aware, I have been volunteering in most of the schools of the Morayfield state electorate for the last few years. I am in each school tuckshop at least two times each year and I have had the best time catching up with other tuckshop convenors and volunteers and chatting with the kids. Just last week I was in the Narangba Valley State High School tuckshop and I got to catch up with the school's very popular tuckshop workers, Julie and Pauline. It was very good to chat with Pauline about what she thought of this most recent season of *Underbelly*. It is very important to encourage volunteerism at our local schools. Rather than just talk about volunteering in schools, it is very important that we all jump in, get our hands dirty and help our local schools.