




Speech by

Carryn Sullivan

MEMBER FOR PUMICESTONE

Hansard Thursday, 16 February 2012

PUMICESTONE ELECTORATE, EDUCATION

 **Mrs SULLIVAN** (Pumicestone—ALP) (3.33 pm): It disturbs me when the LNP continually make blatantly misleading statements. Last week one candidate accused us of doing nothing for business—a stupid, ignorant, untrue statement. And this week there is the accusation that we have done nothing for schooling. I imagine that this nonsense will continue until the day of the election.

Today I have the opportunity to place on record major reforms in education and some of the remarkable achievements we have made in consultation with parents, carers and teachers since I have been the local MP. We raised the school-leaving age to 16, which requires students to earn or learn for a further 12 months. Voluntary full-time prep was introduced, giving children a year of schooling before grade 1.

We saw the overhaul of legislative framework to help maintain quality teachers. On the back of this we introduced the public reporting of schools and standard curriculums from years 1 to 9 throughout the state. The \$70 million Computers for Teachers was announced. This initiative gave every full-time teacher a laptop.

The landmark \$850 million State Schools of Tomorrow has modernised schools. The new Queensland senior certificate recognises more learning achievements from TAFE, universities and workplaces. The two Queensland academies allow students to excel in science, maths and creative arts. We then saw major reforms to improve professional development for teachers, teaching and testing, and school leadership. National partnerships have been set up, targeting literacy and numeracy.

Historic Flying Start reforms will see year 7 joining high school from 2015. We formed the anti-bullying alliance and have given extra power to principals. We have seen new civil infrastructure and construction of buildings. Two hundred and forty kindergartens are progressively being built. Some in my electorate include Banksia Beach, Beachmere and Caboolture East.

None of these reforms and achievements would have happened under the LNP. Even the LNP candidate for Pumicestone, who has three children under school age, would be only one of many parents who would not be able to access these wonderful education opportunities for their babies. Top this with a record \$134.8 million school maintenance budget which is helping to ensure Queensland children are learning in 21st century facilities.