




Speech by

Darren Grimwade

MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD

Hansard Thursday, 13 September 2012

SCHOOL CHAPLAINS

 **Mr GRIMWADE** (Morayfield—LNP) (1.19 am): Last Saturday I took part in the SU Queensland Spin Off Gym Bike Challenge fundraising event for school chaplains. I rode on the Morayfield State School Young at Heart team with the teachers and students from the school. The event was an annual fundraiser for school chaplains, in which teams competed against one another in a battle to see which team could travel the furthest distance in 30 minutes on a stationary bike. This was a very energetic and exciting thing to be part of. I arrived at the Chandler Sleeman Sports Complex to see what I thought would be a normal gym bike. That is not what I saw; I saw a full theatre with gym bikes set up on the stage. A rock band was at the side playing, and lots of energetic people entered the theatre and went on the stage in the same way you would see Rocky entering a boxing ring. It was fantastic and I was glad to be part of this challenge.

The team from Morayfield State School was victorious on the day, taking out our category with a total distance of 25.1 kilometres travelled. I wish to congratulate the team on their efforts. The camaraderie was incredible as the teachers and students came together with a common goal. Although I will admit that I have hardly been able to walk for the last few days, with my legs, my back and every muscle in my body sore and aching from taking part in the event, the students and I had a real sense of personal achievement and I will remember for a long time the priceless looks of their faces at achieving this goal. On that day, Morayfield State School was also acknowledged as the largest fundraising team, raising over \$2,500 for school chaplains.

A school chaplain is a safe person for young people to connect with at school, providing a listening ear, a caring presence and a message of hope. School chaplains care for students struggling with a wide range of issues, including family problems, confusing relationships, friendship issues, peer pressure, self-esteem issues, bullying and stress and anxiety. SU Queensland School Chaplains run positive, fun activities for young people, both in and out of school.

I was pleased to hear of the decision of this government and the announcement by the Minister for Education of a \$1 million boost in funding to school chaplains in the recent budget. This funding will go a long way towards assisting the chaplains within our schools. I have always been a supporter of the exceptional work that our school chaplains do. My hat goes off to them. While I stand in this place school chaplains will always have my support to undertake the very important role they play in our schools to look after our children.