




Speech by

Trevor Watts

MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA NORTH

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TOOWOOMBA NORTH ELECTORATE, SCHOOLS

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (3.37 pm): I place a great importance on education and my electorate is well known for the high quality of its schools. I believe everyone has a right to access high-quality education and the electorate of Toowoomba North has schools from the state, Catholic and the independent sector. I look forward to working with them all and their parent support groups to achieve the very best results for the young people of the Toowoomba North electorate.

I welcome the statement by the honourable Minister for Education on Tuesday in this parliament and the renewed commitment to build the Highfields State School. Highfields is a thriving community that is growing at a fast rate and it is only fitting that the state government builds this much needed school by 2015. I look forward to working closely with the minister and the member for Nanango in ensuring that this project is delivered on time.

There are many initiatives that the government can implement to provide a better education system—and we will. However, it is not the government that has all the answers. For example, take my recent visit as 'principal for a day' to the Newtown State School for Education Week. I thank the principal, Mr Kidd, for his invitation. I was delighted to see firsthand the great positive initiatives that the school is taking. Newtown State School has a reward based Gotcha program that encourages students to display good behaviour. The reward for good behaviour is given out each week. On the particular day that I visited the school the Soroptimist International community group had donated library bags for the students.

We should not forget the integral part that the government plays in providing the best in-class education system for Queensland. I am pleased that the Toowoomba North State School in my electorate will be one of the many schools across the state benefiting from the government's \$54 million program for a full-time prep teacher aide. I thank the minister for giving it to Toowoomba North State School. This policy is an important one that sees the commitment made by the LNP to restore front-line services to the people of Queensland being delivered where it is needed most: to our very young.

I look forward to continuing to serve the people of my electorate, whether it be by continuing as their advocate for much needed infrastructure and services in the education sector or visiting the schools to see firsthand the great work that the teachers and staff are doing for the children.