




Speech by

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MEMBER FOR INALA

Hansard Thursday, 14 February 2013

GLENALA STATE HIGH SCHOOL

 **Ms PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.39 pm): I want to share today a remarkable story of transformation and success—a story that I hope will also stand as an inspiration for generations to come. It involves a group of teenagers on the verge of adulthood, a school badly in need of a facelift, a student body in need of a champion and a teaching professional who entered this world and delivered both.

Glenala State High School in my electorate of Inala is truly the little school that could. Just two short years ago Glenala was in need of a major renovation after years of falling victim to ongoing vandalism and graffiti. Rescue came in the form of a \$15 million Queensland government State Schools of Tomorrow grant—a program designed to provide the best available facilities and ensure today's children have the best resources for tomorrow's future. From the complete makeover of their hall to a new fitness centre and upgrades to classrooms, Glenala State High School has seen a complete physical turnaround. But cosmetic changes are not the only transformation Glenala has undergone.

In 2011, Corrine McMillan arrived as the principal and has set about systematically changing the very culture of the school. Ms McMillan strictly enforced the school uniform policy, banned mobile phones and cracked down on tardiness and school assignments. These may seem like simple changes, but together they have given the students a sense of respect for their school and respect for their community.

The proof is in Glenala's recent OP results. Every single OP eligible student achieved an OP between one and 15—a 42 per cent increase on the previous year. In addition, almost 40 per cent of those students are continuing their studies in higher education. Two years ago that figure was less than five per cent. With enrolments at the school up 20 per cent this year for the new intake of year 8s, word is clearly getting out.

The school's successes have been praised by the Prime Minister, who paid tribute to Ms McMillan and her leadership. Julia Gillard said the school 'continues to show what can be achieved with a culture of high expectations and a focus on evidence based learning'. QUT President, Kevin Bates, said the school was an outstanding result of what could be achieved with strong leadership, dedicated teachers and support staff and, critically, the additional necessary resources required to underpin this work.

To me Glenala State High School truly is a shining beacon. It is a beacon of hope and of inspiration. I know my local community has an immense sense of pride in what this school and its teachers and students have achieved. I am personally just as proud because these really are phenomenal results that have come from phenomenal dedication. I pay tribute to the spirit of this latest group of year 12s. The world now really is their oyster.