




Speech By
Hon. David Crisafulli

MEMBER FOR MUNDINGBURRA

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ADJOURNMENT

Independent Public Schools

 **Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Mundingburra—LNP) (Minister for Local Government, Community Recovery and Resilience) (9.24 pm): May I start first with an observation and then a call to arms for my great electorate of Mundingburra. The observation is how wonderful it is to see today the interest across the state, including from our city of Townsville, for the concept of independent public schools. To have such a large expression of interest, over 100 today and the next wave of 54 selected, is tremendous because it is a concept I truly believe in. I will speak briefly as to why. First of all, I give praise to Kirwan State High School under the leadership of John Livingston which was in the first wave, and now two more schools, Pimlico State High School and Hermit Park State School, whose principals are David Morris and Clayton Carnes respectively.

I believe in independent public schools. I think this is a great model. It does not force anyone to join. It puts the onus on whether the school is interested. Why I believe in this is that more than anyone else North Queenslanders want to control their own destiny. One of the reasons I am in this place is because I had an absolute frustration at this notion that Brisbane knew best. I will always fight for the rights of someone on the ground to make their own mind up. That is the joy of this. It enables the school community to work with their principal to get the type of education they want to see. They can focus on the things that make that school unique. They can get the kinds of teachers into the school that truly can promote the values that school wants to achieve. Who are we, as legislators many, many miles away, to tell local communities what is best for them. This is a model that works.

This evening I wish to make a call to arms to my electorate and to point out that I would dearly love to see one of the great schools in my electorate of Mundingburra take up this challenge in the waves to come. It is always difficult whenever you name schools. I have many great schools in my electorate, but I will point out some of the great relationships I have formed with people like Anthony Ryan from Currajong State School, Jan Green from Annandale State School and Bruce Edwards from Heatley Secondary College. All of these schools have great points of difference. I think it is those points of difference that truly makes them primed to be one of the IPS schools. I desperately want to see it. I want to see a day when all schools go down this path. It is a decision for the individual school. We are not forcing them into it. But this interest clearly shows that communities are embracing this approach. They want to control their own destiny. They want to do things the way they see fit. And I above all want to see my great electorate of Mundingburra represented in this sphere.