




Speech By
Hon. John-Paul Langbroek

MEMBER FOR SURFERS PARADISE

MOTION: EDUCATION, BETTER SCHOOLS PLAN

 **Hon. JH LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (Minister for Education, Training and Employment) (5.46 pm): I move—

That all words after “children” be deleted and the following words inserted:

- condemns Prime Minister Kevin Rudd for offering a better deal on education funding for Victorian students than for Queensland students;
- condemns the former ALP government for underfunding education and disability services in this state while wasting money on the disastrous Health payroll system and other failed projects;
- condemns the federal Labor government’s proposal, which will see cuts to funding for kindergartens, the training sector and universities; and
- endorses the Newman government’s commitment to increasing funding for education and disability services and for its focus on improving student outcomes in schools and training.

We have heard the contributions from those opposite. We have heard the Manager of Opposition Business speak about school closures. This motion is about the future of schooling and the future of school funding. We saw those opposite close 139 schools during the time they were in power—1989 to 2012, except for the couple of years between 1986 and 1988 when the coalition was in power. In terms of asset disposal, they sold \$59 million worth of assets in the last five years or so that they were in power.

The Leader of the Opposition cannot even get the statistics right when it comes to what it is Queensland is to contribute to supposedly be part of the Gonski negotiations. She said it is \$1.3 billion over six years. Yesterday Kevin Rudd said it was \$2.5 billion and we are about four months too late. That did not seem to affect him when he was having negotiations with Victoria on Friday and criticising them. He then satisfactorily signed them up by Sunday.

The Rudd government reached new lows on the last day of its term before we entered caretaker mode. On 11 July we put an offer to the federal government. It was very clear. We wanted three things: to recognise the \$1.8 billion the Queensland government has committed to education over the next six years, including \$537 million for the first four years of Great Teachers = Great Results; to stop the new Canberra bureaucracy that was to be set up under the Rudd and Gillard plan and leave the running of schools to the states and their principals; and to halt the stripping of \$1.5 billion out of kindergartens and \$2.3 billion out of universities that the Labor Party have done in this year’s budget only. This adds to other cuts in the last midyear economic and fiscal outlook.

I was very surprised when last week Bill Shorten came out and said that the Queensland government had never put an offer to the Commonwealth. I stood up and said to him again, ‘Here are the three things that we want from the deal.’ Still we heard nothing. The next twist in this saga was over the weekend. Despite attacking each other on Saturday, the Victoria and Commonwealth governments reached an agreement by Sunday. Having heard that announcement I thought I would make it really simple for Bill Shorten and Kevin Rudd—‘Give us the same deal as Victoria.’ I am sure

honourable members heard me say that on Sunday night. It was pretty clear. You would not think it would be that hard. You get the document, you walk down to the photocopier, you cross out 'Victoria' and write 'Queensland'. Instead of that Bill Shorten and Kevin Rudd spent yesterday doing all they could to avoid the deal. The Commonwealth said to Victoria, 'You only need to increase spending by 1.3 per cent, but Queensland you need to increase it by three per cent.' The Commonwealth said to Victoria, 'You guys only need to reach 92 per cent of the school resourcing standard, but Queensland you need to reach 95 per cent.' The Commonwealth said to Victoria, 'You guys can include money you have already committed, but in Queensland you cannot count your \$1.8 billion of new spending.'

So I am astounded that Bill Shorten was able to move mountains for his state of Victoria to get their deal across the line but that Kevin Rudd could not strike a deal for Queensland even though we made it really easy for him to do so. And this is a Prime Minister who says it is a 'once-in-a-lifetime opportunity'. Didn't we hear that about the Building the Education Revolution? Didn't we hear that about the Digital Education Revolution? There is no maintenance funding for those buildings and now they are pulling out of computers—another 'once in a lifetime opportunity' the states are left to manage.

While I have a few seconds left, I want to point out that misleading the voters is in the DNA of those opposite and their brethren who are out there protesting tonight. The QTU this morning was saying that our education spending is the lowest amount of any of the states. For the benefit of the House, the latest report on government services shows that Queensland spends \$14,853 per student; New South Wales, \$14,448; and Victoria, \$13,449. I will be expecting a letter of apology from the QTU president to the Premier and me in the near future. We are committed to education. We have a plan and we have funded it.

(Time expired)