




Speech By
Mark Boothman

MEMBER FOR ALBERT

MOTION: EDUCATION, BETTER SCHOOLS PLAN

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Albert—LNP) (5.51 pm): I rise today to speak to the amendment moved by the Minister for Education, Training and Employment. First of all, I commend the minister on his speech. It was spot on and it went right to the heart of the issue. This government is committed to building a better education system for all Queensland students. We should see the importance of all levels of education, and we firmly believe that stripping \$1.1 billion out of the kindergarten program and \$2.3 billion out of universities will certainly disadvantage many Queensland students. The federal Labor government gives with one hand and certainly takes with the other.

All we want is a fair deal. Bill Shorten, as the minister alluded to, was able to move mountains and part the Red Sea for his home state of Victoria. Yet Prime Minister Kevin Rudd could not strike a deal for his home state of Queensland. The Leader of the Opposition comes into this House this morning and says, 'Kevin is a Queenslander.' Come on! All we want is the same deal as Victoria. It is that simple. As the minister alluded to, all the Prime Minister needs to do is change a couple of letters on the deal—change 'Victoria' to 'Queensland' and that would suffice. But, no, this Prime Minister has to play the political game. He is not interested in Queensland schools. He just wants to play the political game. So, as I said, all we want is the same deal as Victoria.

I will talk about my electorate, the wonderful electorate of Albert. Thirty-two per cent of my population are young working-class families, aged between 25 and 44, and children aged between zero and 14 make up about 25 per cent of the population. I have previously stated on many occasions that my electorate is part of the development corridor of the southern Logan and northern Gold Coast region. When it comes to education, this government is really delivering for my constituents in the Albert electorate.

Let's talk about some of the wonderful educational facilities Albert has received in recent times because, if we left it to the Labor Party, they would say that we are not getting anything out there. Cedar Creek State School just recently, after years and years of petitioning, got their car park sealed. So no longer do the kids have to sit and watch dust storms come flying through their classrooms from the staff car park. This is because the local P&C, the local principal and the staff are passionate about their school and they want to make a real difference. Therefore, they work with this government and they get real outcomes.

I will read out a list of maintenance backlog funding allocations in 2012-13: Gaven State School, \$154,600; Mount Warren Park State School, \$160,000; Pimpama State School, \$160,000; Upper Coomera State College, \$160,000; Windaroo State School, \$115,800; Windaroo Valley State High School, \$160,000. When it comes down to it, we are not playing politics. We want to get on with the job. If Kevin Rudd behaved decently, he would give us the same deal as Victoria. Therefore, the opposition should have been out there on Monday saying, 'Look, we want the same deal because we care about our schools, too.' So where were you?