




Speech By
Hon. Tim Mander

MEMBER FOR EVERTON

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

School Chaplaincy

 **Hon. TL MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works) (3.43 pm): I rise to acknowledge that this week is 'chappy week'—the week we celebrate school chaplaincy in our state school system throughout Queensland. It was great this morning to share breakfast with 200 people, 40 of them being members of parliament from all sides of the House. This represented a great gesture of bipartisan support for this fabulous program. It is always very inspiring to be with these chaplains and hear the great stories of things that are taking place in our schoolyards on a daily basis.

A chaplain is someone who is seen as being independent, who is there for the pastoral care of our kids and who is working in partnership with the other professionals in our schools—whether they be guidance officers, counsellors or psychologists—to provide holistic care for students in the state school system.

This program has been incredibly successful over the past 20 years, and particularly in the last five or six years, with funding coming from the federal government. One of the great policy initiatives of the Howard government was to provide funding for the school chaplaincy program, and the previous state government and this state government have continued to fund school chaplaincy as well to show that bipartisan support.

I want to pay tribute to the five chaplains in the Everton district. Glen Weatherford, at Albany Hills State School, is a great guy with a wonderful sense of humour who plays a major role in maintaining the school's great morale. He is very well respected. The chaplain at Albany Creek State School is 'Big' Pete Gavel. His time is divided between Albany Creek State School and Mitchelton State School in the Premier's electorate. Pete is a larger-than-life character who is a great asset to the school community. Byron Adams, at the Everton Park State High School, is a passionate supporter of his community. The school is currently undergoing challenging times as its future is being contemplated. Byron has been at the forefront, ensuring that the views of parents and children are being heard. Dave Webber, at Albany Creek State High School, is a great young fellow who has just been married, an event which has been the source of much regret on the part of the young ladies there because he is quite a charmer. Jason Li, the newest chaplain, is at the Mitchelton Special School. That is a great community, and Jason is the right person to help serve the children at that school. Thumbs up to school chaplains. Great work!