




Speech By
Trevor Watts

MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA NORTH

ADJOURNMENT

Harlaxton State School

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (12.31 am): I wish to bring to the attention of the House one of the schools in my electorate where I was fortunate enough to attend the National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence. This happened a little while ago, but in recent times I have taken other opportunities in this House to speak about the range crossing. It was a great pleasure to attend the Harlaxton State School in recognition of the third annual National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence. This school is particularly important to me, because it is the primary school of my children's grandfather and he reminds me of that every time I go there.

The students of Harlaxton State School joined hundreds of thousands of other Australian students in taking a united stand against bullying and violence. On that day, many Australian students stood proudly alongside their school communities and voiced their intolerance in respect to any kind of bullying and violence within their schools. I would like to recognise and applaud the wonderful work that is being undertaken at the Harlaxton State School to provide a safe and supportive learning environment for all attending students. Special recognition should be given to the Principal, Leonie Hultgren, teachers, staff and P&C representatives, parents and friends who all attended on that particular day.

Harlaxton State School might be considered to be a small school, with only 110 students in attendance, but it is mighty in spirit. During my visit I was given the great honour of announcing the incoming 2013 school leaders, namely, Taylah Lynch, Shauni Butler, Nykiah Duncan, Jordan Parsons and Joel Cashin. These students have effectively demonstrated the school's core values. I understand that in 2004 Harlaxton State School introduced three core values into their schooling program: respect, resilience and relationships. This is all part of the school's program to make the whole child, which is the school's main focus. Each of those core values encompasses the issue of bullying and defines clearly the school's intolerance and strong desire to eliminate any kind of bullying and violence within the school precinct.

Unfortunately, the issue of bullying extends far beyond the school gates. Fortunately for the students of Harlaxton State School, lesson plans and strategies are being put in place on a daily basis as part of their ongoing classroom learning activities to assist each and every one of them to deal with the impact of bullying. The National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence provides a focus for schools to say, 'Bullying, no way!' This will strengthen the great work and everyday messages that are being delivered at Harlaxton State School. I appreciate the opportunity to bring this matter to the attention of the House.