




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA NORTH

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENTS

Toowoomba North Electorate, Education

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (3.04 pm): I rise to update the House on some of the great things that are going on in the education sector in Toowoomba North. Recently I had the great pleasure of giving out over 500 certificates of achievements in the Premier's Reading Challenge. I thank Deputy Principal Gary Pascoe at Fairview Heights State School; Corry Pellicaan, the resource centre manager at Toowoomba Christian College; and Simon Flint, Principal of Rockville State School. The children at these schools had done a great job making sure they diligently read through all of the books so they could get their achievement certificates in the Premier's Reading Challenge. I thank the Premier for running the program. I also thank the teachers and parents, because I think they put a fair chunk of work into making sure the children got through the number of books they had to read. It was a great pleasure to be there.

There is so much going on in the education sector in my electorate of Toowoomba North. I thought I would give the House a bit of an update of some of the spending that has occurred in the backlog of maintenance left to us by Labor and which we have been clearing. The allocations are Fairview Heights State School, \$92,000; Harlaxton State School, \$123,000; Highfields State School, \$138,000; Newtown State School, \$160,000; Rockville State School, \$99,145; Toowoomba East State School, \$111,000; Toowoomba North State School, \$160,000; Toowoomba State High, the campus at Mount Lofty, \$160,000; Toowoomba State High, the Wilsonton campus, \$160,000; Toowoomba West Special School, \$88,000; and Wilsonton State School, \$160,000. The Labor members here should be absolutely ashamed that they left behind this maintenance that desperately needed to be done in my electorate. Altogether, \$1.4 million is being expended right now. We have just made available another \$600,000 to clear up some of the outstanding items.

I should add that we have had over \$8 million in Flying Start funding for schools in the non-state sector in the electorate of Toowoomba North, and we have now had close to a couple of million dollars worth of funding for the state high schools in my areas as well. In addition to that, recently released is another \$1.2 million for state capital assistance for a couple of schools. All of that is on top of the \$35 million we are investing in building the high school out at Highfields.

There are some great things going on in the education sector in my electorate. I thank the minister for all of the energy his department has put into making sure that not only are our schools nicely maintained and well presented but also they are prepared and ready for the future.