



Speech By  
**Robbie Katter**


**MEMBER FOR MOUNT ISA**

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Record of Proceedings, 30 October 2014

## ADJOURNMENT

### Rural and Remote Queensland, Teachers; Retail Trading Hours

 **Mr KATTER** (Mount Isa—KAP) (5.57 pm): As we approach World Teachers Day I rise to highlight an issue raised recently with the minister. With the introduction of independent public schools there are now fewer placements available for teachers who have done their remote placements and who wish to relocate to Brisbane. That is a very big issue for us in remote areas. Over the years a culture has developed whereby teachers were prepared to do a stint in the remote areas. One of the incentives was very affordable housing for a couple of years, but one of the biggest incentives was the points system whereby they got a greater number of points if they lived in a remote area. That positioned them well to get a good placement back in a city area after they had done their time in a remote area. It has been a good, effective system that has worked.

Unfortunately, with the introduction of independent public schools, many schools have been removed from the system and it has very significantly reduced the opportunities for people working in remote areas to move. It has created a big problem that we now need to address. I look forward to continuing to work with the minister to resolve that, because it is a big problem. People will be increasingly less inclined to go out and serve in remote areas if there are no opportunities for them to come back to Brisbane afterwards. That is, unfortunately, the reality of how it happens, as much as we would like to keep them out there. That is a big problem we need to address.

The second issue I want to raise is seven-day trading in Mount Isa. There is a commission hearing coming up and, quite surprisingly to me, the giant retailers—the supermarket duopoly—have put in an application to open seven days. All of the convenience stores in Mount Isa and many small suburban shops are very scared in that they know that there is absolutely no doubt that they will go out of business. It might take a few years or it might take five years, but those older people and low-income earners who do not have a car walk to the shops to get food and if those smaller businesses go out of business, they will not have that convenience. I want to table a petition of 1,985 signatures. That is an enormous response because, to be honest, we have hardly pushed this petition. The response has just been overwhelming from local people who want to preserve their local convenience stores and shops. We do not need those big retailers open on a Sunday. It does not make a lick of difference to the community. Rather, we want those smaller retailers available to us because they form a very valuable part of our community and involve people like our coaches and our mums and dads. They are part of the family fabric. They donate much more to the community than the big retailers do. They are a very important part of the local fabric.

*(Time expired)*

*Tabled paper:* Non-conforming petition regarding restricted Sunday trading [\[6422\]](#).