



Speech By  
**Ros Bates**


**MEMBER FOR MUDGEERABA**

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Record of Proceedings, 6 August 2014

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Hope, Mrs C; Mudgeeraba Special School**

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (9.56 pm): It gives me great pleasure to rise tonight to inform the House about a fantastic local school in my electorate of Mudgeeraba and the great progress they are making to enhance the education of their students. I was absolutely delighted to visit Mudgeeraba Special School last Wednesday to present their outstanding principal, Mrs Colleen Hope, with a cheque for the school worth \$30,000. This funding means that the Mudgeeraba Special School will be able to further enhance the education of the special children who attend the school every day and is testament to the level of commitment that Mrs Hope and every single staff member at the school have to their students. As the local member, I have worked alongside Colleen and the school community to deliver great outcomes for the Mudgeeraba Special School since my election in 2009. I have been privileged to attend countless events, presentations and award ceremonies at the school, and I am always inspired by the caring and nurturing environment that makes Mudgeeraba Special School one of, if not the most, highly regarded special schools in Queensland.

Through my involvement I have gained insight into what makes this school the amazing learning environment that it is. It is obvious that it is Mrs Hope's leadership that makes Mudgeeraba Special School not just an educational institution, but a nurturing environment in which to learn and grow for the countless special students who are treated as unique individuals by caring staff day in and day out. Every student, parent and staff member of this school recognises Mrs Hope as a leader who leads by example, selflessly putting her students, staff and school first as a principal who is approachable, hardworking and heavily engaged with all aspects of school life.

As the parent of a disabled child, Colleen has an intimate understanding of the challenges experienced by the parents of special children, and this has allowed her to invoke a distinctly personal understanding of Mudgeeraba Special School families and their unique situations, both in and outside of the school environment. It has allowed her to assist with strategic planning for families outside of the school and provide guidance and support to families and the school community if a young person passes away. She is regarded not just by me, but all who know her, as an outstanding leader who is always willing to go to any lengths to assist students with their educational and personal goals.

This is why I am confident that this funding boost will be of such value to the school community, and I congratulate Colleen on all that she has been able to achieve for the Mudgeeraba Special School and the wider community in what is no doubt a very challenging role. I look forward to continuing my support and involvement with the Mudgeeraba Special School and to witnessing firsthand the way that this funding will be put to great use.