




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA NORTH

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ADJOURNMENT

St Mary's College

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (6.24 pm): I wish to bring to the attention of the House some of the highlights of recent activities and events in the Toowoomba North electorate. I was particularly pleased to attend St Mary's College in Toowoomba, a great Catholic school in my electorate. 'Team Toowoomba' were all present. The Hon. Ian Macfarlane, the Hon. John McVeigh and I were there. This school is in my electorate, but it was great to see John there as well.

Children from all over Toowoomba and the wider region attend the school. The principal, Michael Newman, invited us along. We had the great pleasure of opening some buildings that have been funded by this government. As has been mentioned this week in this place, the government has funded nearly \$8 million of capital works in my electorate. St Mary's College has been the recipient of some \$890,856. It was great to see the Bishop of Toowoomba, Robert McGuckin, the director of the Catholic Education Office, John Borserio, and the assistant director for School Improvement Services, Margaret Hendriks, there. The school captain, Jarred Tuite, and vice captain, Jacob Montafia, welcomed us.

What was really pleasing as we went around and had a look at the buildings was gaining an understanding that the projects were born out of the need for year 7 to move into high school but that there was great community participation from parents about the sorts of facilities they wanted. There were three general learning areas that were improved. Two industrial arts areas will be developed. A computer lab was converted into a home economics facility. Interestingly, the parents of this all-boys school want their young boys to learn how to look after themselves from a food and nutrition point of view as well as make sure they have some skills in hospitality.

The funding for these projects was \$470,000. We opened the Archbishop Duhig Building, which involved the refurbishment of three learning areas, and the Archbishop Roper Building, which included the tuckshop upgrade, a hospitality kitchen and a food technology area and restaurant. The other project that will be completed in term 4 is the two industrial arts areas. It was interesting to hear on the day the member for Toowoomba South, John McVeigh, say that he came and did some of his arts there when he was a student at St Joseph's College.

It was great to be at St Mary's. It is great to be part of a government that is investing in the future of our children and making sure that education is improving, whether it be at independent schools in my electorate, Catholic schools in my electorate or state schools in my electorate. Everybody knows that we are building a new high school for the people of Highfields. Things are going really well with education in my electorate of Toowoomba North. With that, I will sign off.