




Speech By
Christopher Whiting

MEMBER FOR MURRUMBIDGE

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ADJOURNMENT

Premier's Reading Challenge; Deception Bay Reads

 **Mr WHITING** (Murrumbidgee—ALP) (1.38 am): I rise to bring to the attention of the House how we are actively promoting the Premier's Reading Challenge in the Murrumbidgee electorate. Like many parents, I absolutely believe that a love of books and reading is an important building block in helping young Queenslanders get a great education. To promote the Premier's Reading Challenge to students, I have read stories to classes at two great schools in Murrumbidgee and donated books. At Bounty Boulevard State School, I read to about 100 year 2 students and at Deception Bay North State School I read to about 50 years 2 and 3 students. This challenge resonates with me, as I have a four-year-old boy, Guy, to whom we read every night. I was especially pleased to present a copy of his favourite book, *Pirates Love Underpants*, to Bounty Boulevard State School.

The Premier's Reading Challenge reflects our determination to ensure that every child, no matter where they live, has access to a quality education. It reflects our insistence on investing in Queensland's education system, which is why we have committed to employing an extra 2,500 teachers in Queensland's state schools. Contrast that to the federal LNP, whose budget has left Queensland \$466 million worse off in school funding over the next three years, compared to the specific purpose payments in last year's federal budget.

In the Premier's Reading Challenge, prep to year 2 students aim to read or experience 20 books. Students in years 3 to 4 aim to read 20 books and students in years 5 to 9 aim to read 15 books. Students and parents or guardians keep track of their reading progress and the students receive certificates of achievement. Now the Palaszczuk government has extended the challenge to students in years 8 and 9, as well as kindergartens and long day care centres. I hope I have encouraged participation in the Premier's Reading Challenge amongst Murrumbidgee schoolchildren.

I also want to promote another local literacy program, Deception Bay Reads. This is a community created and community-driven program run by community workers Gail Robinson, Jennie Drever and Jan Macintyre. It was initially funded in 2010 by Education Queensland and has been a partnership arrangement with the Moreton Bay Regional Council library services. It is aimed at Deception Bay kids and families who may be socially or economically vulnerable. Deception Bay Reads often brings a box of books to gatherings such as mother's groups, gives books to the kids and program volunteers read to kids and run rhyming sessions. Deception Bay Reads develops parents as the earliest teachers and familiarises children with books and language when they are ready to arrive at prep. I am proud to support the Premier's Reading Challenge and Deception Bay Reads in the communities of Murrumbidgee.