




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES

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ADJOURNMENT

Holland Park State School, P&C

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (9.44 pm): Leading any organisation is challenging. Leaders must articulate a vision, assess and manage their resources, motivate and praise their human resources, communicate with stakeholders, develop a strategic plan that allows for stakeholder input, be sensitive to the needs of their members and they must be able to deal with the unexpected. This long list is challenging at the best of times but is even more challenging when the organisation is made up of time-poor parents, has an executive that is re-elected annually, has a budget that starts from zero every year and has an entire school community who are deeply concerned about their children's education and are willing to provide feedback every step of the way. I am, of course, describing the challenges of running a school P&C or P&F association.

In my electorate I have an incredibly diverse range of schools and all have active and effective P&Cs and P&Fs. Each group is different but each group is right for its school community. In my opinion, the parents' committees are a fundamental building block of the success of not just the school, but the entire community.

I am pleased to advise the House that the Holland Park State School has been named P&C of the Year in the recent P&C Queensland Awards, led ably by the executive team of Kumar Thaivarayan, Lisa O'Donnell, Patricia Gibbons, Stephanie Sullivan and Rhian Persal. This team is supported by a large membership base. They run an organisation that is professional, driven by a strategic plan and is achieving great things in their school community and the broader community.

I was recently asked to speak at the school's Annual Excellence Expo. While I think it is great that the school takes one night a year to celebrate and recognise excellence, I noted in my dealings with the school, that every day is devoted to excellence. The P&C is a fundamentally important part of this culture of excellence. Over the last year the P&C has assisted the school to build a Japanese garden, buy a new piano, fit the hall with data projectors, install new soccer goalposts and work towards upgrading the pool grandstands, outdoor theatre and courts.

The P&C drives the school community to link with the broader community, running events such as the Easter community event, which is open to the entire community. They have also partnered with several local sporting organisations such as the Holland Park Cricket Club to make their facilities available to the entire community. When I recently organised a P&C networking event at the Coorparoo Secondary College, I asked Kumar Thaivarayan to speak to the group about strategic planning. He used his skills as an organisational change manager. Not only did he provide advice, but he listened and learned from all present.

I am proud of and inspired by all the volunteers who work hard in our P&C and P&F committees, but the Holland Park P&C has been recognised as being outstanding in the state and it is something that is truly deserved. I want to acknowledge and thank the members of that P&C for the great work they do in our community.