




Speech By
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ADJOURNMENT

Reconciliation Week

 **Miss BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (12.04 am): Twenty-three years ago yesterday, the High Court of Australia handed down its landmark native title decision. This decision represented a turning point in our nation's history, a turning point for recognition of our country's first people, for healing and for reconciliation.

Eddie Mabo has left our country a proud legacy. Mabo Day concludes National Reconciliation Week, a week that celebrates and commemorates much in our country: National Sorry Day, the anniversary of the 1967 referendum to vote and, of course, Mabo Day. This is a time to reflect on where we have come in our reconciliation efforts and where we are heading to close the gap and ensure equality for our Indigenous brothers' and sisters' lives.

There is a group of people in my electorate who I would like to acknowledge and celebrate as this important week of recognition and reconciliation is upon us. Only last week some members of this group were in this place. I speak of students from Bray Park State School and their BRING IT ON program. They joined us for the Premier's Queensland Reconciliation Awards. They provided the opening entertainment. As always, their ukulele compilation of Aussie songs and original creations was a delight. BRING IT ON is an acronym for Building Reconciliation for Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Generations through Inclusivity, Truth and trust, Opportunities and New pathways.

Reconciliation for this generation, respect and recognition of multiculturalism is key to the BRING IT ON program. This initiative has been a success story for the past three years. It involves inclusive lunchtime activities such as art and the ukulele groups. Another component of the program is the wonderful Homework Club. Its success is attributed to the work of Indigenous volunteers.

Not only did Bray Park State School contribute to the entertainment for the evening; students also got to jam with the Premier, playing their original song *Narragunnawali*. Excitingly, the Premier also announced that the school's BRING IT ON program was the winner of the 2015 Queensland Reconciliation Awards in the education category.

It was a real pleasure to join in this experience with the school and the students. The next morning, I enjoyed immensely hosting a celebratory breakfast at the Yarning Circle—a BRING IT ON gardening initiative. Over a sausage sizzle, pikelets and apples I had the real pleasure of celebrating with students, parents and staff at the school their remarkable efforts and dedication, to which their achievements attest.

BRING IT ON's success is attributed to teacher Jo Speirs, the principal, Maree Mortlock, all of the wonderful staff at the school and parents alike. But without the children, there would not be a BRING IT ON. So I congratulate these giving children on their broader reconciliation program and congratulate them on their successes.