




Speech By
Hon. Dr Steven Miles
MEMBER FOR MOUNT COOT-THA

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ADJOURNMENT

Mount Coot-tha Electorate, Schools

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Mount Coot-tha—ALP) (Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef) (11.25 pm) Mr Speaker, As we near the end of the school year I would like to say how impressed I have been by the staff, students and parent bodies of schools I have the privilege to represent. My electorate is home to some truly fantastic state schools as well as a very special special school, an academy and four great Catholic schools. Our schools are amongst the best in the state with teachers who I believe are world-class and each is special.

Milton State School has a great sustainability program, and that was where I celebrated National Recycling Week with students and staff. Paul and Kylie Lee have led a really great school year. Ithaca Creek has a fantastic art program, and a painting by the year 4-3 class hangs proudly in my ministerial office. Richard Nash is moving on to a head office role, and I wish him all the best. Minister for Education Jones and I enjoyed the Bardon Young Writers' Workshop at Rainworth State School, with students exploring their love of stories with author Narelle Oliver. Adam Mathewson, the principal there, has been promoted to a bigger school and I wish him all the best too. Bardon is where my son Sam studies and he will be joined by Aidan next year in prep. The school is set in the beautiful surrounds of the base of Mt Coot-tha. I know Sandy and the P&C team cannot wait to finish the new oval and car park.

The happy sounds of Petrie Terrace State School kids singing at their leadership assembly made my year, and I cannot wait to see the new aquatic themed mural when it is completed. Principal Eunice Webb is a thought leader and a powerhouse. Toowong State School is famous for its bilingual bicultural program with classes taught in English and Auslan. A new sound system is being installed which will broadcast directly to hearing aids and cochlear implant processors. At the very special Red Hill Special School Pam Stack and her team are truly marvellous. It has been especially fantastic to work with parents like Louise, Alistair and Emma. They are amazing advocates. The budding geniuses of the Queensland Academy of Math, Science and Technology are genuinely impressive. At St Joseph's at Bardon I got my hands dirty digging and planting on National Tree Day. A special shout out to outgoing P&F president Cate Clifford and my friend Anne Fuchs for always welcoming me to the school. At Saint Ambrose's in Newmarket I celebrated World Teachers' Day and with Minister Jones I presented not one, not two, but 160 Premier's Reading Award certificates.

Unfortunately, I could not get to the St Ignatius Goldicott Opera Under the Stars this year, but I am told it was a fantastic night. Set on the hill at Bardon is the captivating Stuartholme. Their amazing principal Helen Sinclair is retiring after 11 years, and I would like to thank her for her service and wish her all the best in her new endeavours. Finally, Paul Flanders, Simon Clowes and the team at the Albert Park Flexi School provide a safe and welcoming place for kids who, for whatever reason, cannot be part of a normally structured school and school week. In closing, Mr Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to the unsung heroes: teacher aides and support staff.