




Speech By
Brittany Lauga

MEMBER FOR KEPPEL

Record of Proceedings, 12 October 2016

GRAMMAR SCHOOLS BILL

 **Mrs LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (5.36 pm): This evening I rise to speak in support of the Grammar Schools Bill 2016. The main purpose of the bill is to maintain public confidence in grammar schools and to regulate the governance and administration of grammar schools. I can speak from experience in terms of the quality of education that I received as a student of the Rockhampton Grammar School.

Ms Jones: As school captain of Rockhampton Grammar School.

Mrs LAUGA: I am a former school captain of the Rockhampton Grammar School.

Ms Grace: Congratulations.

Mrs LAUGA: Thank you; I take the interjection from the member for Brisbane Central. There are lots of reasons why the Rockhampton Grammar School is ranked among the top schools in Queensland. It is one of the best country schools in Australia and it is Central Queensland's best performing school. There are thousands of reasons for that. The most important reason is that parents, teachers, students and past students work together to provide every boy and girl with every opportunity to do his or her best every day. Parents, teachers, students and past students are the grammar family and in every way we are a learning community. We are passionate about every individual student's education and character development in all aspects of their life, throughout life. We are equally committed to providing outstanding teaching and learning opportunities for staff. In fact, the Rockhampton Grammar School is the only school in the country that offers a Master of Education to each and every teacher, which is designed and delivered in partnership with Griffith University. The Rockhampton Grammar School's investment in its teachers' ongoing education is the single most important advantage we can provide to the Rockhampton Grammar School students.

Rockhampton Grammar School students are active young women and men, inside and outside of school. During my time at the Rockhampton Grammar School, I was very active inside and outside of school, not only as school captain but also as vice-captain of netball. I served in the school's first 7 team from grade 9. I was actively involved in the women's cricket team. I was also involved in rowing. I was captain of oratory and I made some really wonderful friends—friends for life, in fact.

Whilst I am on my feet, I wish to pay tribute to a former Rockhampton Grammar School student and my boss before I took up the role as member for Keppel, Patrice Brown, who is a finalist in the Telstra Women in Business Awards, which will be announced this Friday. I wish her all the very best. Patrice is a very capable and passionate woman and a former student of the Rockhampton Grammar School.

Students at the Rockhampton Grammar School take their education seriously, but through balanced academic, sporting, co-curricular and social activities, their learning is well rounded, exciting, engaging and enlightening. Students participate proudly and contribute thousands of hours to causes

and community organisations every year throughout Central Queensland, Australia and the world. The students' ideals, and the school's, are exemplified in the school motto 'Macte Virtute Et Litteris'—grow in character and scholarship.

Rockhampton Grammar School is Queensland's largest boarding school. Approximately 1,500 day and boarding students, from all ages and backgrounds, are nurtured, respected and supported at the school. Set on 7.5 landscaped hectares, the school is well appointed and features two large sporting ovals, tennis courts, a 50-metre swimming pool, a multipurpose gymnasium/hall, a modern healthcare facility, dance studios, a professional theatre and more.

The school's beachfront education centre, Ritamada, is located at Emu Park on the Capricorn Coast. The school also maintains a small farm at nearby Port Curtis and the Rockhampton Grammar School Rowing Club on the Fitzroy River, in town. I was at the rowing club recently for our 10 year reunion. In addition, students enjoy exclusive access to Belmont Station, the former CSIRO cattle research facility at Etna Creek owned by AgForce Queensland.

Whilst the school is large enough and resourced to support a diverse and rich curriculum, the four schools within the Rockhampton Grammar School—the early learning centre, primary, middle and senior—are each small enough to provide individual care and attention to each boy and girl. It is an environment in which 21st century learners thrive and emerge educated, well rounded and confident, equipped to pursue their ambitions, secure in their sense of self and their capacity to make the most of opportunities and meet future challenges.

I will pay tribute to some of the teachers and staff at the Rockhampton Grammar School who are still working passionately to educate our region's young people. In particular I mention: Ms Denise Wright who was the head of the senior school when I was at the school and is still there today working very hard; Mr Arthur Kelly and Mrs Aileen Kelly; Mrs Miranda Broadbent, my wonderful Japanese teacher, who is still passionately teaching Japanese at the school; Mr Stuart Norford, the head of boys boarding who is still at the school doing a wonderful job; and Dr Phillip Moulds, the current headmaster. He was not the headmaster when I was there. Mr Islay Lee was the principal whilst I was there. I know that Dr Phillip Moulds is a very passionate leader and headmaster. He is doing wonderful things particularly in relation to the school's music school.

I know that Mr Brad Beasley does a wonder job as chairman of the board as does Mr Mark Birkbeck as deputy chair of the board. The board of trustees of the Rockhampton Grammar School is constituted under the Grammar Schools Act and is the statutory body within the meaning given in the Financial Administration and Audit Act and subject to audit by the Queensland Audit Office. I pay tribute to the other members of the board of trustees for the Rockhampton Grammar School: Emeritus Professor Deborah Clayton, Mr Simon Irwin, Dr Jill South, Mrs Kaye Wilson and Mrs Josephine Volck. They are aptly supported by the acting board secretary, Mrs Karryn Johnson.

The Rockhampton Grammar School was a great place to go to school. I am very grateful for the education that I received there. In closing, I will read the words of the school song.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Elmes): I hope it is a short school song so we stay somewhere relevant to the bill.

Mrs LAUGA: Of course. The words of the school song are:

We of Grammar shout our chorus,
what tradition has gone before us.
Sing the songs of all our glory,
shout with all our might.
Proud of our endeavours,
surrender we will never,
in a fight, we stand for right and
may God be our protector.
When the battle-cry is sounding
and our hearts in us are pounding,
that's the time to show we stand
for Grammar and the right.