




Speech By
Jennifer Howard

MEMBER FOR IPSWICH

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ADJOURNMENT

Claremont Special School

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (10.32 pm): Tonight I rise to speak on the excellent work being carried out at Claremont Special School in my community of Ipswich. Claremont Special School is an established and treasured part of the Ipswich community. The school has been educating some of our most disadvantaged children for over 20 years. I commend and thank Principal Patricia Thiedeman, staff and teachers, who are committed and passionate about educating some of our most disadvantaged students and providing the opportunity to students to develop respect, independence, communication and, above all else, healthy self-esteem.

At Claremont State Special School, all students can learn and have the right to learn through an innovative, current, fun and challenging teaching and learning program. The school aims to develop independence in the students, preparing them for life and work post school. At Claremont Special School the curriculum is designed and implemented by a committed and enthusiastic team of professionals, including classroom teachers, therapists, specialist teachers in music and physical education, and teacher aides.

Students can also choose to undertake certificate courses in the senior school. One of the courses is the Certificate I in Hospitality. The senior hospitality students have been working in the school tuckshop to develop a menu that considers healthy eating options, including gluten-free foods for students and staff. The menu is reviewed at the end of each term and new foods have been trialled by students in the school through taste testing and given a vote of approval prior to becoming available on the menu.

It gives me great pride to announce that at the 2016 Tuckshop of the Year Awards run by the Queensland Association of School Tuckshops, Claremont Special School was recognised with the Menu of the Year in the Special Schools category. The school takes great pride in offering a five-star menu full of healthy choices prepared by the senior students. The students are learning valuable life skills whilst preparing items such as zucchini slice, ham and pineapple pizza, lasagne and chicken burgers for their peers. The school has shown that a simple menu and teamwork between dedicated staff and students can be a winning combination. The awards were sponsored by the Department of Education and Training. I acknowledge the tuckshop convenors and volunteers, who are really leading by example in offering a service that nourishes the minds and bodies of young Queenslanders while they learn.

The recognition of the work undertaken by the staff and students at Claremont is fantastic and it comes in addition to the allocation in this year's budget of \$10 million to assist in the further development of the Claremont Special School. The funds will provide a new two-storey building that will house not only 10 new classrooms but also an additional administration centre that will enable Principal Trish and her staff to continue to provide the high level of professionalism we have come to expect from them. The excellent work at Claremont Special School is an example of the results of the Palaszczuk government's commitment to the education of students with disabilities.