



Speech By  
**Hon. Shannon Fentiman**


**MEMBER FOR WATERFORD**

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Record of Proceedings, 12 May 2016

**PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS**

**Education**

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Communities, Women and Youth, Minister for Child Safety and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (2.57 pm): I rise to thank the Minister for Education and my local principals, P&C and P&F representatives who attended my recent education forum at Beenleigh. Representatives from Beenleigh Special School, Beenleigh State School, Beenleigh State High, Bethania Lutheran, Canterbury College, Edens Landing State School, Loganholme State School, Loganlea State High, Mabel Park State School, Mabel Park State High, Marsden State School, Marsden State High, St Joseph's Tobruk, Trinity College, Waterford State School and Waterford West State School all attended—a lot of schools.

At the most recent forum the education policies of the Palaszczuk government were warmly received. Waterford schools were happy with our record \$9 billion investment in education. They were excited that we are rolling out the Advance Queensland curriculum, with cutting-edge classes in robotics, coding and technology. Over the Christmas break many of the schools had received repairs and renovations thanks to our clearing of the school maintenance backlog. They are also relieved that we as a government are hiring teachers above growth levels. Schools in Waterford gave a big tick to the Investing for Success program, which invests \$480 million in the 2016-17 budget to schools with the greatest needs—some of those are in my electorate.

At this forum we also heard from local Logan legend Aunty Robyn Williams about her passion to include Indigenous education in our local schools and to encourage more Indigenous teachers. Aunty Robyn movingly told the crowd that school students should know and respect the Indigenous history of the land they are walking on and that this passion has been her and her sister Eileen's lifelong purpose.

The speech resonated with me as to how much work we have to do to close the gap in our country and in our education system. That is why I was thrilled this week when our federal leader announced a Shorten Labor government would deliver over four years 400 scholarships to Indigenous Australians to help them become teachers. This will help Aunty Robyn's passion move forward and is a great step in making our education system more inclusive of our first Australians.

Education is not a burden; it is an investment. I will never stop fighting for the fair share of funding and resources that Waterford schools deserve. I am proud to be on this side of the House when it comes to education, and I look forward to my next local schools forum where I can hopefully deliver more good news such as the saving of Gonski—something my schools support unequivocally.