



Speech By  
**Tracy Davis**


**MEMBER FOR ASPLEY**

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Record of Proceedings, 30 November 2016

## **ADJOURNMENT**

### **Unsworth, Master T**

 **Ms DAVIS** (Aspley—LNP) (2.47 am): Tyrone Unsworth was a year 7 student who attended Aspley State High School. Tragically, last week Tyrone took his own life. Tyrone was a young man with a big smile. He was a friend to many and he will be sadly missed. I would like to extend my deepest and heartfelt sympathy to his family and friends and the Aspley school community. It a difficult time for them all.

Those who knew Tyrone and those of us who did not are deeply challenged by the reality that a young man such as Tyrone would find himself in such a dark place that he felt the only option to deal with the pain of being bullied was to end his life. We should always see children and young people as precious and we should celebrate their individuality. All children and young people need to feel safe both inside and outside the schoolyard and at home. We all have a responsibility to ensure that and, as parents, as friends and as communities, we must all step up to protect our children so that they feel safe, supported and loved.

Bullying is a serious problem. Whether that be emotional or relational, verbal, physical or cyber, we should be standing shoulder to shoulder and saying no to bullying inside and outside of our schools. Children have a right to feel safe and respected. Children have a right to live their lives free from bullying and harassment. Bullying diminishes the right of children to have a positive education experience.

Young people who are bullied can experience significant social isolation, loss of self-esteem, feelings of shame and anxiety, and concentration and learning difficulties. Tragically, violence, harassment and bullying can lead to suicide. Sadly, Tyrone took that drastic and irreversible decision.

It is my view that we must give weight to helping our children build resilience. Alongside that, we should be encouraging empathy, tolerance and acceptance. I am not proposing that there is one easy solution to this insidious problem, but it is clear that, whilst there has been much effort to tackle bullying, we still have a long way to go and we should encourage more student input in the design of bullying strategies for their schools. Students are saying that in order to report bullying it must be dealt with confidentially and discreetly, because many are concerned about retribution. They want someone trustworthy to tell, they want someone who will listen compassionately, they want the matter dealt with immediately and they want the bully held to account.

Schools across Queensland are grappling with incidents of bullying every day. As a community we need to support our schools by reinforcing the message that bullying and harassment must never be tolerated. We need to confront the hurtful things children say and do to each other and work together to change that behaviour, because the safety and wellbeing of our children should always be a priority.