




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR BURDEKIN

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ADJOURNMENT

Burdekin Electorate, Schools

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (11.55 pm): Tonight I want to share with parliament an initiative that I have delivered in the Burdekin electorate for the benefit of all my school students. I made the decision this year to deliver into every school in my electorate copies of what are commonly called the bucket books. There are two books. One is for students in prep to year 3 and is titled, *Have You Filled a Bucket Today? A guide to Daily Happiness for Kids*. The other is for students in grade 4 and above and is titled, *Growing Up with a Bucket Full of Happiness: Three Rules for a Happier Life*.

Is that not what we should be doing as adults—giving our children some guidance, support and tools on how to live a happier life? These books are centred on the concept of an invisible bucket—an invisible bucket that each and every child carries with them every day. The goal is to fill the bucket and to keep it full. So how do they fill that bucket? It is pretty simple. They do it by doing the right thing, by being respectful, courteous, and polite, by helping others, obeying the rules and doing the little things that make their life, and in this case the lives of their fellow students, better. Being outdoors and doing their best fills their bucket and, more importantly, they can protect other people's buckets. On the flip side, they empty their bucket by being rude, disrespectful and bullying other students. Put simply, name calling and cheating dips into their bucket and the central message is that heroes stand up for others.

These books target bullying, by teaching resilience and kindness and lifelong messages on how to live their life in a positive way. A number of schools in my electorate have embraced this concept and feedback from parents and teachers is that it works exceptionally well in addressing poor behaviour within the school ground. I have even had parents contact me to say that their children use this concept at home and that it is an extremely useful parenting tool.

There is a simple message here that children embrace willingly and utilise so effectively to control and highlight poor behaviour. I have witnessed that being put into action and I have to say it is humbling to watch and heartwarming in its effectiveness. We all have a story to tell about the devastating consequences that bullying can have on our young people, the loss of life and families being torn apart. If I can prevent even one case of bullying through the delivery of these books and the message they contain then I will have done my job.

I know that there are a number of psychologists, particularly around Townsville, who are using these books in their practices. A number of schools that have had these books for some time have made them a part of their curriculum. The success it has brought to their schools and the improvement in the behaviour has been nothing short of astonishing. I certainly would recommend these bucket books to all members tonight.