




Speech By
David Janetzki

MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA SOUTH

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ADJOURNMENT

Toowoomba South Electorate, Schools

 **Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (12.58 am): I want to reflect on a few recent local events and the achievements of a few primary schools in the electorate of Toowoomba South. Last week, Toowoomba welcomed a delegation of UNESCO ambassadors from Paris who observed how we encourage inclusiveness and work together to build a united city regardless of race, religion or creed. This was the first ever UNESCO peace delegation to visit Australia. I thank Pure Land Learning College and Toowoomba's Goodwill Committee for their efforts in bringing the ambassadors to our city and their ongoing commitment to Toowoomba's unity.

At the UNESCO ambassadors' official welcome, the Darling Heights State School choir sang beautifully. Last Friday, they celebrated Harmony Day by rejoicing in the diversity of the school's cultural backgrounds, with students and parents wearing traditional clothes and costumes from their home countries. What diversity was on display for the UNESCO ambassadors, with nearly half of the students speaking English as a second language, 39 countries of birth and 37 languages spoken in their homes! I acknowledge Principal Mark Creedon and the entire team at Darling Heights State School. It is always a pleasure to spend time with their enthusiastic students.

Across town at Harristown State School, led wonderfully by Principal Jonathan Druce, during my recent visit the year 6 students impressively shared with me their knowledge of our Constitution and parliamentary systems. They also wanted to get to the bottom of why anyone would want to be a politician—a question I am sure all honourable members ponder from time to time. I congratulate Jonathan, year 6 teacher Kerry Baron and the Harristown team. Harristown State School is a great school that is full of passion and vision.

A little further west in my electorate is Glenvale State School. I pay special tribute to the 72 year 6 students and 28 staff who rose at the crack of dawn to take on the Milne Bay Military Challenge—a challenge driven by local identity Tressa Lindenberg—honouring those from the Darling Downs who voluntarily enlisted and who trained at or passed through Toowoomba to become members of the 25th Battalion. The 25th Battalion was responsible for the first major victory over the Japanese in the Pacific War at Milne Bay. The students of Glenvale State School clearly honoured the memory of the battle and demonstrated the teamwork and the 'don't give in, don't give up' attitude, encouraged by outstanding Principal Dave Saxton and the staff at Glenvale State School. This is another incredible school in the electorate of Toowoomba South that is leading its community in word and, most importantly, by action. I congratulate all at that school.

Finally, I pay a special tribute to Mayor Paul Antonio for his leadership in encouraging the UNESCO ambassadors to come and visit from Paris and offering Toowoomba Regional Council as a refugee welcome zone. I congratulate the mayor for leadership of our diverse city.