




Speech By
Linus Power

MEMBER FOR LOGAN

Record of Proceedings, 10 August 2017

EDUCATION (ACCREDITATION OF NON-STATE SCHOOLS) BILL

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (4.19 pm): I join with the member for Toowoomba North in thanking the minister and congratulating her on the fantastic Labor announcement of a great new school hall at the Wilsonton campus. It is a great Labor initiative—a project that was not delivered during the three years of LNP government.

The Palaszczuk government—and this bill—recognises the value of non-state school education alongside our state schools. I know that the minister values the role that non-state schools play in great education in Queensland and the value they place on faith and its role in Queensland. The Minister for Education recently asked me to be involved in the blessing of the new Catholic school in Yarrabilba, St Clare's. It is a fantastic school, inspired by the message of St Francis and St Clare. They call upon students to 'live the light', and the archbishop gave that message to all of the new students. Father John Conway gave the reading from the book of Mark and talked about students not hiding their light under a basket. Principal Chris Thomas undertook unusual preparation for the opening of a new school when he travelled to Assisi in Italy to visit, pray and reflect on the legacy of St Francis and St Clare.

I was also honoured to be able to participate in the opening of the new school hall at Parklands Christian College. The new basketball hall, named after former principal of the school David Baskerville—or 'Mr B' as he is called—is a fantastic new hall with three basketball courts. That will no doubt make the school a powerhouse in basketball, which the Leader of the House will appreciate. I also attended that school's fete along with the new principal, Johannes Solymosi. I built a go-cart with my son as part of the activities of giving back to the community that the school is involved in. I also recognise St Francis', St Philomena's, St Bernadine's and Emmanuel college.

An opposition member interjected.

Mr POWER: I recognise that those opposite have no respect for these schools and wish to interrupt me, but we on this side of the House all value the role these schools play.

This diversity of education provides something that Logan parents value—that is, the ability to take a different course in their children's education and to give students something else through their education. I commend the bill to the House.