




Speech By
Peter Russo

MEMBER FOR SUNNYBANK

Record of Proceedings, 25 May 2017

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Sunnybank Electorate

 **Mr RUSSO** (Sunnybank—ALP) (2.43 pm): I intend to speak about all things education and a little sport. First of all, I would like to talk about Minister Kate Jones, the Minister for Education, who hosted the Catholic schools here on Tuesday night. The Queensland Catholic Education Commission and principals from various Catholic schools throughout the state's south-east—including my electorate—were here, and I think there were even some from further afield. It goes without saying that the Catholic schools in my electorate and the electorates of many of my colleagues are partners in Queensland's education future for our children.

I would also like to briefly touch on languages in schools and their importance to certain cultural groups within my electorate and the broader electorates of many of my colleagues. I would also like to speak about the great junior Rugby League clubs in my electorate: Sunnybank Junior Rugby League and Souths Juniors Rugby League at Acacia Ridge. Yesterday the Parliamentary Friends of Rugby League, headed by Nikki Boyd MP and Tim Mander MP, hosted the Queensland Origin team here at parliament. I was fortunate to bring my two youngest, Grant and Joe, along. Unfortunately, Joe was a little bit off-colour and did not get right into it, but Grant did and I have some great photos of him with Sam Thaiday and Johnathan Thurston. That brings me to another point, and that is the Sunnybank Junior Rugby League Club. That is where Johnathan Thurston played most of his junior league. They even have a field named after him and, being a Johnathan Thurston fan, I am fortunate to have a sign on the Johnathan Thurston Field.

I will now speak on the issue of languages. The Tamil community in my electorate—and I repeat again, in many of the electorates of my colleagues—is very passionate about their language. The Tamil language is one of the oldest languages known to civilisation and has been historically important when dealing with trade throughout the ages. In my electorate every Saturday afternoon at the Sunnybank High School the Tamil school teaches the Tamil language to children from a very young age right up to the senior years. I will just touch on another issue in relation to that great school in my electorate. I think it is important to understand that we have great facilities available to our community at the Sunnybank High School, and it is an indication of the great work that that school does between the community and the school. That particular school recently hosted the Filipino Festival. It is also home to Little Athletics and many other cultural groups that meet there on weekends.