




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR TOWNSVILLE

Record of Proceedings, 24 October 2017

ADJOURNMENT

World Teachers' Day

 **Mr STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (6.47 pm): I wish the House a happy State Education Week. It is a great week and one that I get very excited about. I know that other members in the House who have worked in the portfolio feel the same. This Friday is World Teachers' Day. I know that a lot of members from both sides of the House will go into the schools in their communities to spend a bit of time thanking teachers and principals for the great jobs that they do. Every single time I hear a member speak about a school in their electorate, they speak with passion. It is great that we have the ability to recognise what teachers do. Teachers have a huge impact on our lives. We can all remember great teachers we have had and what they did for us. I went to Kelvin Grove State High School, which is now a state college.

Ms Grace: A great school in my electorate.

Mr STEWART: It is a great school. The member for Mundingburra was also a student there, as was Minister Kate Jones. That school has a great pedigree.

There was a fantastic head of the PE department at that school by the name of Tony Parsons. He really shaped my life. He went on to teach at Centenary Heights State High School in Toowoomba at the same time I left. When I became a teacher I found myself teaching like him. I found myself building strong relationships with students, just like he did. I found myself teaching students and not the subject, like he did. It was a great fortune that after 25 years we both just happened to turn up at a principals conference and I could sit down and have a beer with the person who guided my life and say thanks.

I am sure that a lot of members will do the same thing this Friday—they will sit down and say thanks to the teachers in their electorates because they do an outstanding job. There are thousands of Tony Parsons right across our schools right across this state. Teachers I have worked with have influenced others.

Sarah Chapman from Townsville State High School influenced my daughter's life. My daughter Jordan has now become a science teacher because of the work Sarah Chapman did. Maybe she is the next Tony Parsons. Sarah Chapman also influenced the life of Anna Richards, another student in our school, who had no idea what she wanted to do. She did a biology lesson with Sarah and then decided she wanted to be a doctor. She is pursuing medicine right now.

At Pimlico State High School we have Richard and Heidi Newell, the instrumental music teachers. There are hundreds and hundreds of people I could talk about. Teachers will walk across broken glass for their students and students will walk across broken glass for great teachers.

We are coming up to awards nights and graduation ceremonies, which are all about student achievements. I ask each and every member who goes to those awards nights to look into the shadows, the corners and the back seats. That is where members will see the teachers smiling about the work they did.