




Speech By
Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe

MEMBER FOR SANDGATE

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EDUCATION (ACCREDITATION OF NON-STATE SCHOOLS) BILL

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (4.22 pm): It is great to join this debate in support of the Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Bill. I thank the minister for her work in bringing this bill forward. I thank all of the stakeholders that have been involved in supporting the review and the process that has been going on for some time that has led to this legislation to provide support for our very valuable non-state schools to more effectively and efficiently provide great education to the students of Queensland.

I want to echo the sentiments of not only the minister but also the member for Bulimba when they spoke about how important it is that we value and support choice in schooling, that we value and support the range of choices parents will make about what is right for not only their children but also them and their families and the reflection of their values. I think it is very important that we see that supported very well.

I will join members who have spoken in this debate today in recognising some wonderful schools in my electorate. There is a range of fantastic state schools delivering terrific outcomes for students, including my own daughter. There is also a great range of non-government schools. There are a couple of non-government schools that are a bit different from the ones that have been mentioned in the debate so far. There is the autism school at Brighton and Jabiru Community College at Bracken Ridge. For the minister's benefit, Jabiru Community College is one of those places that is having some struggles with some of its facilities. It is currently working out of some facilities provided by the Brisbane City Council. I am working with it to look for an alternative that may be of assistance in the future in terms of the great services it provides to young people who do not quite fit into our secondary school system.

I also mention the great range of Catholic schools that support people in our community. One of the earliest and oldest, founded in 1893, is Sacred Heart in Sandgate. There is also St Joseph's at Bracken Ridge and St Kieran's at Brighton. I also mention the Catholic colleges. St John Fisher College at Bracken Ridge has been a beneficiary of the Gateway Upgrade North project, with a noise wall for the school. That is something it has been looking for for about 30 years and it is now being delivered. I also mention St Patrick's College at Shorncliffe. I will be there this Saturday supporting my son playing in the firsts basketball team against Marist Ashgrove.

Ms Jones: Go Marist!

Mr HINCHLIFFE: I know that the minister will be supporting Marist Ashgrove, but I will be supporting St Paddy's and the fighting Irish. I commend the bill to the House.