




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR JORDAN

Record of Proceedings, 30 October 2018

ADJOURNMENT

Jordan Electorate, Young Entrepreneurs

 **Mrs MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (7.22 pm): The future is bright and I was reminded of this through the entrepreneurial zeal and achievement of three fantastic young people in the Jordan electorate. Springfield Central State High School year 9 student Tanieka Booth-McNeill is only 14 but is already showing incredible business acumen through her invention of Shielded Socks. These special soulful socks—white on top and colourful underneath—have hidden messages for high school students, with the aim of helping students overcome mental health issues. Tanieka's business idea is to give students socks that inspire confidence and help them through the day. It is a great idea and Tanieka was recently the worthy winner of a *Shark Tank* style competition for Brisbane students. She has won a valuable mentorship and a \$10,000 prize to get her business started, but she also received some fantastic support through the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce which allowed Tanieka to do a 'practice pitch' to its members, landing her a local backer to help her get her socks developed and marketed.

Addressing a pressing issue was also the motivation behind an anti-tailgating app invented by Springfield Anglican College student William Newman. William, who is 13, has invented a safety app for cars called the Road Vue app which identifies drivers who persistently tailgate. The app uses GPS, speedometers and cameras at the front and rear of the car to note a tailgater's numberplate. William has made the top 12 from more than 3,000 entries in Origin's national littleBIGidea competition. He has already received \$1,000 in prize money and attended a design workshop in Melbourne last month with the other finalists. He is hoping to be the ultimate Origin littleBIGidea national winner which includes a trip to NASA's Kennedy Space Center and I know our community is really cheering him on.

We know that students who engage in coding and robotics are learning the skills and knowledge they need to participate successfully in a technology based global economy. That is why I am a big supporter of the Premier's Creating Queensland's Future coding competition, now in its second year. The theme for this year's coding competition was Stand Up to Cyberbullies, which supports our government's commitment to providing safe and respectful learning environments for students. I was so pleased to see local Springfield Central State School student Mariah Smith announced as the winner of the year 3 to 4 individual category, having been selected from over 215 entries received across the state. I was so impressed by Mariah's work and the creative solutions she came up with to address the anticyberbullying message. The judges assessed Mariah's work as one which illustrates a deep understanding of coding concepts and product development.

Tanieka, William and Mariah have each demonstrated a willingness to take a good idea and develop it into a potential business or social enterprise opportunity. These are the very skills and knowledge that our government is developing through the Advance Queensland initiative, fostering innovation to create jobs and build a strong and diverse economy. With young people like Tanieka, William and Mariah in the Jordan electorate, we are indeed moving forward.