



Speech By  
**Corrine McMillan**


**MEMBER FOR MANSFIELD**

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**PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS**

**Mansfield State High School**

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (2.28 pm): Today I want to talk about education and, in particular, excellence in public education. As members of this House are aware, like you, Mr Deputy Speaker Stewart, I have had recent experience with the public education system. During my time as both a teacher and administrator, I have witnessed and been part of the excellent product that can be found in our state schools in Queensland. The quality and vitality on show is a credit to the principals and teachers who are delivering for the students in their care.

In my electorate of Mansfield, one school that epitomises the high quality of public education is Mansfield State High School. At Mansfield there is a strong emphasis on literacy and numeracy with a dedicated team of literacy and numeracy teachers providing targeted interventions to meet the needs of every student. Mansfield has always prided itself on the explicit teaching of grammar, spelling and punctuation, and this approach is reflected in the growth in student results, particularly in recent achievements recorded in the annual NAPLAN tests. These achievements have been realised without resorting to selective processes to exclude students who may lower the school's overall results. All students in years 7 and 9 do the NAPLAN test. I want to publicly acknowledge the excellence in education shown by my close friend and principal at Mansfield State High School, Karen Tanks, and her dedicated, hardworking and motivated staff.

Excellent education is the key to a strong economy, a democratic and compassionate society, a flexible and skilled workforce and an individual's quality of life. Public education, through the hard work and dedication of its teachers, is the principal driver of this important task. I commend all of my previous colleagues who are now the custodians of this nation's future.

Of course good public education only exists when there is government commitment to supporting its educational systems. The Palaszczuk government's record funding for public education in the 2018-19 budget is clear testimony of this commitment. Over the forward estimates, there will be a massive \$717 million devoted to public schools. In my own electorate, there will be a record \$16 million spent to upgrade and modernise both state primary and state secondary schools. I commend the Treasurer and the minister for their vision in supporting our great system.

An emerging trend regarding public education is the comparative increase in enrolments in state schools and a commensurate decrease in enrolments in independent schools. Queensland parents are realising something that many of us have known for some time, and that is that state schools are great schools.