



Speech By  
**Corrine McMillan**


**MEMBER FOR MANSFIELD**

---

Record of Proceedings, 1 November 2018

**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**Mansfield State High School**

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (2.46 pm): On 20 September, I rose in this place to inform the House of the excellent achievements being made at Mansfield State High School. Before politics, like you, Mr Deputy Speaker, I was a proud principal in public education. I have spent my life dedicated to the principle that every child should be able to access the best education for free in their local community. That is the case at Mansfield.

We have seen an emerging trend of an increasing proportion of enrolments in public schools and the Mansfield electorate is being seen as an educational hub of excellence. There is a good reason for that: parents are realising that our local schools are as good as or better than fee-charging private schools. Many parents have such confidence in their local public school that access to local school catchments is a key part in deciding where to purchase their homes.

Recently I met with locals from Rochedale, many of whom have moved into the area and have committed to sending their children to Mansfield State High School. Frankly, why wouldn't they, as it is providing such an outstanding education. Those parents had applied for the 2019 school year only to find out that the catchment area had been changed without their knowledge. While local population and school enrolments mean boundaries need to be changed from time to time, there had been a lack of consultation with the school community and with me as the local member. Catchment changes need to include the local community as a part of the decision-making process.

Since discovering this change, I have engaged with the local community by holding a community meeting last Friday and hearing directly from many concerned parents. Alongside Rochedale residents I am fighting hard to get those boundary changes reconsidered, to ensure that the long-term planning of parents can be continued. Through my petition, over 300 residents have joined my call for the changes to be reversed. I will be presenting it to the Minister for Education.

In my discussions with the minister to date, I am grateful for her support for my community and her commitment to listening to locals to find a solution to ensure a fair and sustainable catchment zone for Mansfield State High School. I thank the department, the minister and her staff for their understanding of this complex issue of enrolment management. We have another community meeting later this week and I have invited the department to come along and work with us to ensure that we get this right.