




Speech By
Hon. Grace Grace

MEMBER FOR MCCONNEL

Record of Proceedings, 22 August 2018

MOTION

Independent Public Schools, Order for Production of Documents

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations) (5.05 pm): I move—

That all words after 'House' be deleted and the following words be inserted—

'notes:

1. the benefits of Independent Public Schools in Queensland;
2. the Independent Public Schools policy framework always required an evaluation of Independent Public Schools at the end of 2017; and
3. the government will table the report post consideration by cabinet.'

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, member for Kawana.

Ms GRACE: The LNP did so well in Education when they were in government and spent so much money during their term that three years later they are sitting on the other side of this House. That is how well they did in Education: the people of Queensland voted them out and booted them to the other side after just three years. When it comes to walking away from independent public schools, the only government that has walked away from independent public schools is the Malcolm Turnbull federal government. They ceased funding in 2017 and it was up to the Queensland government to pick up the funding and pay for IPS.

The member for Kawana has these conspiracy theories in his head. He thinks them up all the time. The first is that it is a secret review. It was announced, there were terms of reference and everyone knew the review was happening. Not only was it not secret, but in the course of the review many, many different people were consulted. Any suggestion by the member for Kawana that this review is secret is laughable and complete and utter nonsense. The only reports that are secret are those of the LNP, because in 2013 there was an evaluation report and in 2014 there was an evaluation report, and not one of those reports have been made public—not one of them.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Kawana, you have made your contribution.

Ms GRACE: The only report that has been made public is the 2015 report that I tabled in the House. Their two reports were kept secret and this one will be tabled in the House following consideration by cabinet. There has been a delay in that and I apologise. Unfortunately, I was not able to receive my briefing because I had an accident. I was incapacitated for two days when I was due to receive that briefing. My eye was swollen and I could hardly see out of it, so it has delayed that process.

We have made it very clear that this report will be tabled, but because of cabinet confidentiality I am not allowed to say exactly when that will occur. The member opposite knows that. As soon as it is considered it will be made public. There is no secret report. Any suggestion that the evaluation will lead to the end of the IPS program is simply incorrect. It is all in his head. He makes it up; he says whatever he wants. In fact, how could that be the case when the majority of IPS schools occurred under a Labor government? We are the ones who nearly doubled the number of IPS schools, so any indication by the member opposite that we have stymied this process is laughable. He does not let the truth stand in the way of a yarn, does he?

A government member interjected.

Ms GRACE: Exactly right. Since 2016 it has been on our website to have an evaluation. They did two and they have kept them secret. All of ours will be made public. To suggest that the QTU has forced us to do that is complete and utter nonsense. It is in their head; they are making it up. They are a joke, because when it comes to good policy about educating students in this state they have none. They have no idea. Prep, year 7 and 2020 Ready were all Labor initiatives. Everything about student—

(Time expired)