



Speech By  
**Jarrod Bleijie**


**MEMBER FOR KAWANA**

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Record of Proceedings, 1 May 2018

**MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST**

**Independent Public Schools**

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (2.45 pm): The LNP's vision for Queensland children is to receive the best education in Australia. We want to give our kids the best chance to succeed in life. The LNP introduced independent public schools because we wanted to empower local principals, teachers and parents to run their schools. Research shows that more autonomy improves school performance and student outcomes. Local decision-making, greater control over resources and increased funding enable locally tailored programs that increase collaboration and maximise our children's potential, increasing their opportunity to get a job.

The LNP believe that local school communities, parents, teachers and principals know what is best for the children at their school. We want to give them the ability to make those decisions without interference. Since the introduction of independent public schools we have seen innovative partnerships with local universities and industry groups, expanded music programs through partnerships with nearby schools and primary schools working with kindies to ensure school readiness. More independent public schools will empower more local principals and parents to be the masters of their destiny and have greater freedom to shape their own strategic direction and make decisions which will directly benefit their students and the needs of their local community.

This is part of the LNP's plan to support local decision-making and provide Queensland mums and dads with more choice. Independent public schools are destined for the scrap heap under Labor because they decentralise government and cut the Teachers' Union out of the decision-making processes, which are driven locally. Labor do not like it and the QTU does not like it.

Since 2013 some 250 independent public schools have commenced across Queensland, but the program has stalled under Labor. Last week there was a media exclusive to every media outlet in Queensland stating that a major overhaul was to be announced in education the next day. The Premier turned up and announced the reading program that has been announced by every Premier in Queensland for the last 20 years. Then the big overhaul to education by the Labor Party was \$1.5 million for 3,000 volunteers to go into our schools and read to our students. The volunteers now have to be registered and licensed with the government and receive training.

It already happens. Volunteer grandparents and parents are already going into our schools and reading and writing with our children. It is nothing new. It is a waste of \$1.5 million. They would be better off spending the \$1.5 million on teacher resources, more teacher aides or support for children who are not doing as well as they should or could or are not realising their full potential.

At the press conference the Minister for Education was asked a question about independent public schools. She said to the journalist, 'I'm not aware of that.' The journalist responded, 'But I'm asking a question that is in relation to the answer to the question on notice you have given to parliament.' It was signed the day before by the minister and she said she did not know anything about it. That night

it was revealed that there was a secret review by the Labor government and the QTU into independent public schools in Queensland—a review that no-one knew about. It was not disclosed to anyone—but the union knew about it, the QTU. This is similar circumstances to the ETU telling Minister Bailey what to do in his portfolio. The Queensland Teachers' Union are now telling Grace Grace, the Minister for Education, what to do in her portfolio. There are 250 successful independent public schools operating across Queensland and they are destined for the scrap heap under Labor.

David Gillespie, the chair of the Brisbane State High School council, said last week that his school was able to choose specialist teachers who may not have been allocated otherwise. He warned 'it would be a real retrograde step' if the IPS system was scrapped in Queensland. Kylie Lang in the *Courier-Mail* today says, 'Penalising independent public schools might appease power-hungry unions but it won't magically lure teachers to less popular locales, and it certainly won't help students.' We need more independent public schools, not fewer. We need to support our teachers to go out to rural and regional Queensland. If that means paying a more decent salary to teachers to go out to rural and regional Queensland then we should do it. If that means giving proper residential accommodation to teachers in rural and regional Queensland then we should do it—but not scrapping IPS. IPS should be extended, not scrapped.

*(Time expired)*