




Speech By
Jarrold Bleijie

MEMBER FOR KAWANA

Record of Proceedings, 2 May 2018

MOTION

Early Childhood Education and Care Services, Federal Funding

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (4.30 pm): I wish the Labor government in Queensland would stop using our kids and our kids' education as a political football. We know that there is a meeting this Friday with education ministers, so here comes the Minister for Education in Queensland with this motion that she will take down to the COAG meeting on Friday and say, 'This was passed in the Queensland parliament,' two days before the meeting. What has the minister been doing? Has she had discussions with the federal government, or is this just political spin and political play today? Having been a minister, I know that these discussions about finance and Treasury would have been happening for months. In fact, I have no doubt the minister sits over there knowing very well what is on the agenda and what the outcome of this motion will be tonight. It is likely—

Ms Grace: In an alternative universe maybe.

Mr BLEIJIE: She probably has not read the papers for Friday's COAG meeting. We know that earlier this year the federal government in its package invested \$428 million to support preschooling for 2018 and a further \$440 million to continue the program next year in 2019.

This minister is developing a reputation of talking more about what is happening in other states and territories than what is happening in Queensland. Every time an education matter comes up, is discussed or is debated all the Minister for Education in Queensland does is stand up with her hands out saying, 'We want more money. We don't want to debate issues, we don't want to debate the Gonski 2.0 that was released a few days ago.'

Instead of the Minister for Education holding a press conference about the benefits of Gonski 2.0—recommendation 1 talked mostly about early learning and early development, exactly the subject matter of the motion we are debating today—the minister said, 'We need more money.' That is straight out of the union play handbook, straight from the education union. In fact, the Australian education union beat her to the punch by about five minutes saying, 'We need more money.'

Rather than thinking, 'Let's stop all the Genderbread social engineering and programming in state schools; let's stop the Safe Schools program in state schools; let's stop trying to socially engineer our children in our schools,' and rather than investing all that wasted money and time in getting teachers to do that—and the member for Mansfield shakes her head, yet she was a principal in the system that has seen literacy and numeracy on the decline under Labor for years.

Is it any wonder that our poor teachers and teacher aides are having to spend more time because of Labor state governments trying to socially engineer our children with programs? Those programs teach them that, if they wake up in the morning and they want to be a girl for the day, they can be a girl for the day. Then if by lunchtime they want to change their sex and they want to walk out of the classroom as a boy, they can be a boy for the rest of the day. That is what that program is about. That is how they are investing in our children's education rather than concentrating on the real issues of early development.

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: The reason I can speak to this is that I am a father of three children and I am a father of a young son with early developmental issues.

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Let us tone it down. Let us reset.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection from the education minister. Yes, I am a father and I am a father of a young boy—

Ms Grace: You never know what happens. You never know.

Mr BLEIJIE: I am a father of a young boy with learning difficulties.

Ms Grace: You don't know. Be very careful what you say.

Mr BLEIJIE: I am very careful with what I say and I talk with passion because I want my young son to have the very best education he can have. I want the programs in place to give him the very best education he can have. However, teaching kids that they can decide three times a day whether they are male or female does not improve literacy or numeracy in this state.

The education minister should spend more time looking at the numeracy and literacy rates which have been on the decline under Labor and on Labor's watch rather than all of the other programs she is investing money in and spending time on. Get the priorities right for our kids' future.