




Speech By
Jessica Pugh

MEMBER FOR MOUNT OMMANEY

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Centenary Learning Alliance of State Schools

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (2.16 pm): Mr Deputy Speaker Stewart, you would know more than most that state schools are great schools. In my electorate we are blessed with many of them. Today I want to inform the House about a truly wonderful and innovative program that my local state primary and high schools are operating in the Centenary suburbs, which comprise a major part of my electorate.

CLASS is the Centenary Learning Alliance of State Schools. It is chaired by the principal of Centenary State High School, Mr John Brew, and its junior members are the principals and senior staff of our Centenary primary schools including Jamboree Heights, Jindalee, Middle Park and Darra and the Mount Ommaney Special School. It is worth noting that some of these schools are independent and some are not, but all of them work side by side for the betterment of our kids' education.

CLASS meets regularly throughout the year to discuss trends, information and shared learnings that can improve all of their schools for the betterment of all of their students. They even organise shared training days, pooling their resources in order to get all of our local state schools on the same page about issues such as STEM and technology. In doing this they are able to access the highest quality training and resources for their staff and students. Although, like many schools, they have a friendly rivalry about the results their students achieve, and each of them has much to be proud of, they come together to discuss issues regularly. I am awaiting advice from the education minister's office as to whether theirs is the only program like it in the state. Whether it is unique or not, it is one I am immensely proud of. It is a truly wonderful initiative. As I can see from the wonderful outcomes our local students are getting, it is yielding results.

As the electorate has over 900 teachers, many of the parents at our local state schools are teachers themselves, so they place a very high premium on quality education for their kids. Last month I was thrilled to attend a meeting of CLASS. Normally it is not ideal to be invited to meet with the principal, let alone a room full of them, but it was wonderful to have the opportunity to hear firsthand all about the wonderful work they are doing in their schools.

From the student welfare fund operating at Jamboree Heights and Centenary State High or the amazing Middle Park performing arts program that feeds their talented students through to their local high school, our kids benefit when our local schools work together to ensure the best possible knowledge sharing and resourcing across our state school network. At a time when more and more parents are turning to state schools for their education needs, it is wonderful to know that my local schools are doing such a great job educating local kids, including my two.