



Speech By  
**Jessica Pugh**


**MEMBER FOR MOUNT OMMANEY**

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Record of Proceedings, 22 August 2018

**MOTION**

**Independent Public Schools, Order for Production of Documents**

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (5.25 pm): I rise to speak in support of the amendment moved by the Minister for Education. I know that there are few things more important to Queenslanders than a good education. I said it in my maiden speech and I say it again. I have almost 1,000 teachers in my electorate, so looking after teachers will always be a top priority for me. Most of their children attend local state schools, so members could imagine that the calibre of teaching in Mount Ommaney is topnotch.

Since becoming a new member of parliament and visiting the schools in my electorate—IPS or not—I can say that it is clear that education is an issue that unites us all. I have five independent state schools in my electorate: Centenary State High School, which became an independent state school in 2015; Jindalee State School, in 2015; Oxley State School, in 2015; Corinda State High School and Middle Park State School, both in 2014. I am the mum of two state school kids. Middle Park State School became an independent state school. When I drop them off at school I can see that the Palaszczuk government's commitment to education is clearly paying dividends.

The Palaszczuk government is investing \$235 million over four years in the Renewing Our Schools program. I am more than happy that Corinda High will be one of these schools. While it is important that we always prioritise infrastructure to accommodate growth in our schools, it is also important that our older Queensland state schools are given some love and some TLC, and that is the case with Corinda. The Palaszczuk government is committed to ensuring all state schools are equipped with modern infrastructure. The program will deliver school infrastructure upgrades and refurbishments of at least \$10 million to 17 schools, including the wonderful Corinda in my electorate. I thank the minister for visiting that school with me. I think it was her very first visit as education minister earlier this year. They were thrilled to have her visit.

This program targets schools that were established 30 or more years ago. They might be a little bit tired. Their facilities might need updating. They need to support modern teaching and they need to ensure their enrolments stay on par. Planning work for this program commenced in term 2 of 2018, including school visits, discussions with the principals regarding potential scopes of work and the commencement of initial concept planning work. I am looking forward to seeing what is in store for Corinda High with this massive injection of funds from the Palaszczuk government. I make a special mention of their wonderful principal, Helen Jamieson, who is widely recognised in the Corinda community for being a wonderful school principal.

Along with Corinda High, there is so much happening for other schools across Mount Ommaney. Centenary State High School will benefit in this budget from \$1½ million for additional classrooms. Mount Ommaney Special School, known as MOSS, will receive almost \$3 million for additional

classrooms. Oxley State School, one of our smaller independent schools, will receive \$200,000 to refurbish their resource centre. Oxley State School will also be receiving money for electrical upgrades. The list goes on.

Most importantly, these wonderful schools are doing a lot of great work with their school communities and as a government we want to know what opportunities the IPS model presents and what we can learn from the IPS schools for the benefit of all state schools. It is my experience as a Middle Park mum that this independent state school is doing wonderfully well. Last week when I visited my local high school, Centenary State High School, for its science fair the whole school was abuzz. The kids were thrilled to have the opportunity to show off their STEM skills to the whole community.

We need to share these learnings with the whole state and give everyone an opportunity to hear about the great work our local schools are doing. Why would we keep this information to ourselves? I have spoken before about the Centenary learning alliance of state schools formed of five independent and non-independent state schools in my electorate. They know the value of information sharing, and so does the Palaszczuk government. With those few words and as a proud state school mum, I commend the amendment to the House.