




Speech By
Joseph Kelly

MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES

Record of Proceedings, 8 March 2018

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Schools, Federal Funding

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (2.21 pm): I have a simple question: does the Leader of the Opposition back our local schools or does the member back Malcolm Turnbull's GST cuts that will strip teachers, support staff and resources out of schools in the electorate of Greenslopes? It was a huge honour to be re-elected to represent the seat of Greenslopes.

One of the key issues we talked about was backing our local schools. People in my electorate understand the transformative power of education and the role it plays in building our community. I am proud to back our local schools. I am proud to back them on big and small issues—getting a new oval at Nursery Road Special School so that children and students with disabilities have the same sporting opportunities as every other student was a huge outcome. Getting a school crossing guard at Holland Park State School keeps the kids safe but also goes to another commitment I made—to create local jobs. When I think about the coding and robotics happening at every school around Queensland, I am exceptionally proud of the government that has this vision.

Over the next four years our government has committed to putting 3,700 teachers into schools. This is a great commitment. We understand how important early childhood education is, and that is why there will be a teacher aide in every prep classroom in the state. I am extremely proud to be part of that. We are also investing \$221 million over four years for STEM specialists and IT support staff. These are great outcomes that this government should rightly be proud of.

Compare that to what is coming our way from the federal government's GST cuts. We face up to \$1.6 billion in cuts. That could pay for more than 14,000 teachers or about 30,000 teacher aides. We know with the growing population that that \$1.6 billion could fund more than 30 new schools or new infrastructure such as 250 halls in existing schools.

I return to my original question: does the Leader of the Opposition back our local schools or does the Leader of the Opposition back Malcolm Turnbull's GST funding cuts? I know exactly what the answer is on this side of the House. I am proud to be part of the Labor Party because I back education. I support the Premier and I support the minister as they stand up for Queensland and say no to Malcolm Turnbull's GST cuts. I will never back Malcolm Turnbull's GST cuts. I will always back our local schools. I am proud to be part of a government that backs our local schools, whether through preparing our schools for the future or maintaining or building new schools. This is a government that backs our local schools. We do not accept GST cuts and never will. We back our schools.