




Speech By
Julianne Gilbert

MEMBER FOR MACKAY

Record of Proceedings, 22 August 2018

MOTION

Independent Public Schools, Order for Production of Documents

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (5.48 pm): I rise to speak in support of the amendment moved by the minister. Once again, the member for Kawana is hyperventilating about an issue. He is attempting to score cheap political points without any regard to the facts. He is not attempting to engage in anything of real substance. The facts are that, under the Palaszczuk Labor government, the number of schools under the IPS initiative have grown from 130 to 250.

In my electorate I have a fantastic IPS school, the Mackay District Special School, which came on board as an independent public school in 2015. It is important to note that the federal government's funding for IPS dried up in 2017—a great commitment from the LNP for students! In order to give schools funding certainty, the Palaszczuk government has continued funding the initiative in 2018 to the tune of \$12.5 million.

As any responsible government does after a program has been in place for some time, it evaluates the program. We want to see what is working, what is not working and look towards the future. I note that the speakers from the other side of the House are from South-East Queensland. There are no speakers from the country. We need to hear from people from the country: Warrego, Gregory, Burdekin and Mirani. They have chosen to ignore what is going on out in the regions.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Leader of the Opposition, please refer your comments through the chair.

Mrs GILBERT: The government wants all teachers to have great expectations and goals for their students. We know that that is what we have in our state schools. I hope that the way those opposite talk about independent public schools and compare them to non-independent public schools is not saying that our community schools are inferior. If they are saying that, it is an insult to the rural and regional communities of Queensland. It is the Palaszczuk Labor government that is looking after the regions, not these South-East Queensland members who have jumped up.

Following a competitive merit process, an independent consultant was appointed to evaluate the existing IPS model and consult with all stakeholders. It is the most public secret evaluation that I know of. It was built into the IPS framework that we would have a review. It has been available online for everyone to see. Now that the report has been finalised, it will go to cabinet for consideration and will be released, not like some of the reports that were never released from the other side. Responsible, professional governments take time to consider issues in a serious and methodical manner. Those opposite made a mess of their time in office, just as their federal colleagues are doing as we speak.

This motion is all about the member for Kawana's fixation and strange fascination with unions. He simply does not get that workers come together collectively to advance their interests. The Queensland Teachers' Union works collectively to advance their interests and those of their students. We do not need smears from the member for Kawana and those opposite. The QTU has had a public

position against independent public schools for years and yet this is somehow a major revelation to the member for Kawana. The facts are that the government will consult with all stakeholders. That is exactly what the minister and the government have been doing in relation to this issue. The member for Kawana can continue to obsess over his pet issues, whether it be IPS or anything to do with unions, but we will continue to get on with delivering for all Queenslanders. I am particularly proud of our record in education.