




Speech By
Kim Richards

MEMBER FOR REDLANDS

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ADJOURNMENT

Redlands Electorate, Educators

 **Ms RICHARDS** (Redlands—ALP) (7.04 pm): I start by offering my condolences to the Webber family on the passing of much-loved local John Webber, who was an outstanding contributor to the Redlands. Tonight I proudly rise to say thank you to all our educators. I know what a pillar of our community they are and of the hard work and dedication that they put into shaping the young minds and hearts of Queenslanders. However, I have to say how embarrassed I am by the comments and inferences continually made by the federal member, Andrew Laming, about our teachers. He did it again yesterday while suffering from a moment of relevance deprivation. I want to say how out of touch he is with our community.

Today it was really interesting to hear the hypocrisy of members from the other side of this House who talked about education, when a federal member from their side of politics slams teachers and does not support our kids. That is a real shame. Time and time again Mr Laming has demonstrated how out of touch he is with our community. I call on the member for Oodgeroo to stand with our community and say enough is enough and to let Mr Laming know that he backs our Redlands teachers and not Mr Laming's media tactics.

Over many months I have had the privilege of meeting with the principals and teachers of the Redlands. I can tell the House that they do an incredible job. Last week I had the opportunity to catch up with a number of principals and teachers in school visits and Anzac Day celebrations. Principal Steinhardt at Victoria Point State High School, Principal Bancroft at Cleveland District State High School, Principal Seawright at Macleay Island State School, Principal Barnett at Russell Island State School, Dr Lyn Bishop at Sheldon College and Principal Wilton at Thornlands State School are all doing a fantastic job.

The detail and quality of the Anzac Day celebrations and ceremonies were outstanding. Our teachers are not only teachers; they transform into historians, poets, scientists, mathematicians, artists, dancers, athletes and so much more, each and every day. The talents of our teachers and their dedication and passion for their profession go beyond the concept of an eight-hour day.

At Victoria Point State High School I spoke at length with Principal Steinhardt and students on the importance of reading and the lifelong joy reading provides. It has been wonderful to see the Premier's Reading Challenge being embraced by the schools in my community. We know how important it is, both at home and in our schools, to have a lifelong love of reading.

At Sheldon College I was impressed with two amazing young ladies who have started to convert a shipping container into a demonstration model of crisis housing for victims of domestic violence. Through skills in design, planning, programming and construction, this project demonstrates big thinking by those young ladies and they have been supported by many in our community.

During Queensland antibullying week, it was wonderful to meet with Principal Manthey and the students at Victoria Point State High School to talk about how they can help to stamp out bullying in schools. Next week, I will host a youth antibullying forum with students from across the Redlands to—

(Time expired)