




Speech By
Kim Richards

MEMBER FOR REDLANDS

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PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Redlands District Special School

 **Ms RICHARDS** (Redlands—ALP) (2.52 pm): If any member is in the Redlands on Friday, 21 September, I ask them to save the date. I will come back to why later. I want to share with the House the incredible work of the Redlands District Special School, which is a school in the Redlands for students with disabilities and which is doing amazing things. The principal, Mr Thompson, and the staff are creative, innovative and impressive. I love their work. The education and life skills being taught by them to the students at that school—some with complex and special needs—is sensational, with love, care and respect at the heart of all they do every day.

Earlier this year I was invited to the school's Koala Cafe. The food was baked by the students. They made a very mean cup of coffee! They made the table decorations, the price lists and the signage and they provided the most delightful hospitality. I want to give a special shout-out to Jayden. Not only was he a delightful host but also his raspberry slice was delicious. He was running home to tell his gran that night that he had met the member for Redlands.

The students are heading to the patch of my good friend the member for Maryborough for the Fraser Coast Technology Challenge, which is a program that is supported by our government. Last year, the students participated in the challenge. They pushed themselves and they really loved it—so much so that they are going back for more this year and they are going back with more excitement and extra enthusiasm.

These students were able to participate only because of the generosity of Traction, which is a wonderful organisation in the Redlands that is looking at spreading its wings further across Queensland. Traction donated a special recumbent bicycle, allowing students of varying abilities to participate in this 24-hour nonstop riding challenge with technology at its heart.

I will go back to where I started. If members are in the Redlands on 21 September, I ask them to stop into the Redlands District Special School in Thornlands for its second op shop day. I guarantee that members will grab a bargain. I would like to congratulate the teachers—Natalie, Kay and their team—who came up with the idea of a regular op shop to teach the students skills in retail, great customer service, product display and cash handling.

Last Friday, I attended the grand opening of the monthly op shop day. The students were so excited. I made them a promise that today in parliament I would wear one of my incredible purchases on the day. I do not think that members would disagree with me when I say that this is a gorgeous suit jacket and I purchased it for the bargain price of \$2. That is right: everything was \$2. Everything came with a great sale price and a huge beaming smile.

I want to see the very best for the amazing schools in my electorate and ensure that the wonderful work of schools such as the Redlands District Special School is supported to deliver the best possible education and achieve the best skills outcomes. Those on this side of the House know that the

Commonwealth needs to come to the table with better funding for our Queensland schools. The success of our students, including those at Redlands District Special School, is dependent upon better funding for needs based programs.

I would like to remind the federal government and those sitting opposite that their focus should be on proper funding for our schools and not \$17 billion in tax cuts for the big banks. When the member for Oodgeroo talks about tax cuts, I will remind him that he might want to take up that matter with his federal member.

(Time expired)