




Speech By
Leanne Linard

MEMBER FOR NUDGE

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ADJOURNMENT

Nudgee Electorate

 **Ms LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (7.03 pm): It is a pleasure to have this opportunity to rise and update the House about a number of recent and upcoming events in the Nudgee electorate. Last week I had the pleasure of attending the opening and blessing of four new buildings at St Pius Catholic Primary School, Banyo, both as the local member and on behalf of my good friend Grace Grace, the Minister for Education.

Over the past four years, St Pius have invested significant time and funds to expand and update their school facilities both to enhance the learning environment for current students and to support a rapid increase in student numbers in recent years. These \$6 million facilities—including new classrooms, a multipurpose hall, learning support, administration, PE storeroom and tuckshop, outdoor learning areas and additional toilet facilities—represent a rebuild of much of the school campus. Brisbane Catholic Education and the St Pius' school community raised more than \$1.2 million.

The federal government contributed \$1.2 million, but it was the state government that provided more than half of the project costs—over \$3 million—to make these improvements a reality for St Pius and their school community because we will always support Queensland schools and Queensland families' right to choice across the education spectrum.

From education to the Commonwealth Games, the Queen's Baton Relay will be making its way through our local community shortly in the lead-up to the 2018 Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast. On 30 March, 20 baton bearers will travel from Sandgate Hawks Football Club in Taigum, down Handford Road through Zillmere and Geebung and on to Chermerside. Included in this lucky group will be local legends Rod Chiapello and Bronwyn Sheehan, although I know that they would both bristle to hear themselves described as such. Rod is a long-term and well-known business owner who lives in my electorate and works tirelessly for the community.

Similarly, Bronwyn Sheehan, who lives locally at Virginia, dedicates countless hours to her amazing organisation Pyjama Angels, making such a daily difference to children in care. Both Rod and Bronwyn will be joined by fellow locals Maxwell Brock and Gemma Etheridge both of Nundah, Julie Hall of Zillmere and John Stackpoole of Nudgee to carry the baton for our local community. I take this opportunity to wish them well for this special honour. We will be lining the streets to cheer them on.

Yesterday, round 95 of the Gambling Community Benefit Fund was released with over 600 community organisations across Queensland sharing in \$13.7 million. My sincere congratulations to Kurbingui Youth Development, the Nundah Activity Centre, Boondall Figure Ice Skating Club and the Aspley Orchid Society who were all successful in this round.

Everyone in this House knows what a difference these grants make to hardworking clubs who would otherwise find it extremely difficult, or indeed impossible, to afford facility upgrades, new equipment or to run events. I take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank not only those clubs I mentioned but all clubs in my electorate for the wonderful work they do making our community a better place to live, work and play.