




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR NUDGE

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Premier's Reading Challenge

 **Ms LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (2.58 pm): I was very proud to have the Premier and the Minister for Education, Grace Grace, visit my electorate last week to officially launch the 2018 Premier's Reading Challenge at Nundah State School. This program, now in its 13th year, aims to improve literacy and encourage children to read widely for pleasure and learning. Open to early childhood centres, state and non-state schools and home educated students up to year 9, this annual statewide program is all about getting young people motivated to read or read more in a fun way. Last year a total of 156,000 children and students participated in the challenge from 850 schools and 410 early childhood centres. Over 2.19 million books were read as part of the challenge, and I know that Queensland children can do even better in 2018.

To successfully complete the challenge, children must read or experience an allocated number of books during the reading period. These targets are age appropriate, with prep to year 2 needing to read or experience 20 books, year 3 and 4 students to read 20 books and year 5 to 9 to read 15 chapter books. Importantly, this challenge is open equally to all students in those year levels, with suggested book titles for the first time being available in Chinese, French, German and Japanese as well as English. For learners with special needs, they will also be able to engage with books that support their needs whether in large print, braille or audio.

As part of the launch last week at Nundah State School, the Premier and education minister read a book to year 2 students in the library and took the time to have a quick tour around the gorgeous new quadrangle—the heart of the school—and principal Deb Cox proudly showed off the new STEM space. At the launch the Premier also confirmed that the Queensland Ready Reading program will recommence this year after being cut by the previous LNP government in 2012. The program will see up to 3,000 reading volunteers trained by Volunteering Queensland to go into schools across the state to share the love of reading with students.

I am passionate about literacy and developing a lifelong love of learning in our young Queenslanders. Books have the capacity to transport us to faraway places, to allow us to be anyone or anything we want to be, to learn from history, to make history and to be challenged by other's expression. I have taken great pleasure in donating hundreds of books to early learners across my electorate over the past three years in celebration of the culmination of the Premier's Reading Challenge and Book Week celebrations each year in August. This year will be no exception and I encourage all young readers across my electorate and all electorates to pick up a book and take up the challenge, with registrations now open and reading to commence on 14 May. My two young boys have their first books already picked and ready to go for when the challenge kicks off in a few weeks, with my four-year-old Ollie showing particularly good judgement and choosing a book called *Just Like My Mum*.