



Speech By  
**Hon. Mark Furner**


**MEMBER FOR FERNY GROVE**

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Record of Proceedings, 6 September 2018

## **ADJOURNMENT**

### **Mitchelton Special School**

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries) (6.21 pm): Following the 2017 redistribution my electorate of Ferny Grove is now fortunate to include the Mitchelton Special School. The school caters for over 150 students from prep to year 12 who are drawn from 45 locations from surrounding suburbs. All of these students have diverse needs related to intellectual and other difficulties ranging from communication skills to self-care and basic health needs. More than half have additional special needs arising from autism spectrum disorder.

The teaching staff are nothing short of remarkable and strive every day to not only deliver meaningful academic outcomes but also provide essential life skills which many of us take for granted. The Pathways Program is particularly notable in that it is a Mitchelton-specific concept model. It provides transitional goals for students and their families post school. The Pathways Program incorporates supported employment, volunteering healthy lifestyles and community support. The dedication of the parents and caregivers in the Pathways Program is essential to building individual plans for students which are meaningful, achievable and relevant.

It was my privilege recently to take part in a ceremony handing over jerseys to the year 12 students. At the ceremony the students were also very excited to receive formal school jackets which senior student leaders can wear to official events when they represent the school. This is a first for Mitchelton Special School and I commend Minister Grace and her department for the tremendous work they do in the special needs space.

Mitchelton Special School is certainly a shining example of the dedication of our hardworking public servants who do a great job in highly adaptive ways to provide a quality education to all Queenslanders. Some months prior to that it was also my pleasure to attend one of the school's Thursday luncheon days when the students cooked a glorious feed of Indian. It just demonstrates their ability as special school students and the school's diversity to provide for such needs. It was an amazing opportunity and a glowing example for the community in my seat of Ferny Grove.