




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR GAVEN

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ADJOURNMENT

World Teachers' Day

 **Ms SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (6.29 pm): Last week was World Teachers' Day. I want to take this opportunity to thank all of the incredible educators across our state who teach and inspire future generations. I believe that every child should receive a quality education regardless of their postcode or background, and it is a privilege we have here in Queensland that we should never take for granted. We are incredibly lucky to have so many talented educators in the Gaven electorate. I want to congratulate one of our own, Natalie Harris from Pacific Pines Primary School, for winning the Queensland College of Teachers, 2018 Dr Alan Druery OAM Excellence in Teaching Award.

We also have some passionate, caring and determined P&Cs in our community. I want to thank Worongary State School and William Duncan State School for their relentless advocacy in support of their principals, Landan Dare and Reegan Gant. Many of the parents at these two schools were ready to get out there with a petition to keep their much loved principals. I am pleased and relieved that the Department of Education has seen what amazing work these two men do and granted them permanency in their positions at those two schools.

Last but certainly not least, I would like to speak about Mr Dean Harawira, or Mr H as he is commonly referred to. Nerang State High School had a special visit recently from members of the band Sheppard to announce that Mr H has been nominated for the ARIA Music Teacher of the Year Award. It is no surprise as to why. Mr H is well known in the community for the work he does with the funk band and the incredible drum line which has competed in national and international competitions and won an array of awards. Only last week I saw them perform at Country Paradise Parklands when *Sunrise* visited Nerang and at their awards night at the Home of the Arts.

Mr H works with many teenagers in our community who are disengaged and he has given them a goal to strive towards and helped them achieve better results. Douglas, a year 12 student who recently starred in the school's performance of *Annie*, that I had the privilege of seeing, said—

I went in because I love music and as soon as I started talking to Sir—

Mr H—

he fired me with everything he had. He gave me shot after shot to have something in this world.

Mr H has been a foster parent to five children and he said when interviewed recently—

I just found that music was very healing for all of my family. That's why I'm here.

If I can pass some knowledge on that I have and change someone's life that means more than any award.

I think those words show why Mr H was nominated and how passionate, talented and loved he is. The winner is decided by public vote so I ask that all MPs in this chamber get behind one of our local teachers and spread the word in their communities. He is the only Queensland finalist in this category so we need help to show Australia that he is the best music teacher in the country.