




Speech By  
**Ros Bates**

**MEMBER FOR MUDGEERABA**

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**EDUCATION (OVERSEAS STUDENTS) BILL**

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (3.47 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the Education (Overseas Students) Bill. This bill seeks to change the framework surrounding the provisions of courses to overseas students in international student exchange programs. This is an important topic. We know that there are many benefits to international exchange programs for students, whether it is educational, personal development or the long-term benefits that come from experiencing another culture. We know that overseas placements get students thinking about different perspectives. Those overseas placements help students learn other languages and make them more aware of global issues. They also help young people improve their self-confidence, self-esteem and social skills.

International placements are a great opportunity and I am glad to see that so many schools in my electorate of Mudgeeraba have formed partnerships with schools internationally and provide opportunities for international placements. Robina State High School is one terrific example of a school that values international education. Under the leadership of their outstanding principal, Julie Warwick, and Deputy Principal, Ben Weeks, the school has created a number of international programs to foster cultural understanding. They want to provide students at both Robina State High School and its sister schools with culture and personal development opportunities.

After a lot of hard work, Robina State High School can now boast that it provides opportunities for students to form lifelong global networks. Each year the school welcomes visitors from overseas on short and long-term programs. These international students choose Robina State High School, because they know that it is one of the best schools that Queensland has to offer. These students know that the school has great facilities and an outstanding curriculum. The school's Japanese immersion program and sister-city arrangements with schools in Japan are second to none. Thanks to the \$500,000 security fence that the international students helped to deliver to the school community in the last parliament, international students also know that the school offers a safe and secure learning environment.

All Saints Anglican School at Merrimac also offers a dedicated international centre that prepares students for international placements by offering a dedicated English language course. Every year international students can take advantage of the All Saints Anglican School international program for either a semester or an academic year as a high school student. I commend Patrick Wallas, All Saints principal, for championing this international program and providing overseas students with an opportunity to be immersed in the Australian way of life and our education system.

Further south in my electorate in Reedy Creek, Hillcrest Christian College has embraced international students for more than two decades. In 1996 Hillcrest commenced its international student program and it now accepts international students from prep to year 12. This is an incredibly successful program which supports students from overseas and gives them a genuine Australian education experience. It is led by a dedicated head of teaching, learning and global education. Well done to Jeff Davis for his leadership since taking over as principal in 2015.

Similarly at King's Christian College, I know principal Rees Davis is also committed to providing a great learning environment for all students, including those the school welcomes from other countries and cultures. Just north of Reedy Creek in Mudgeeraba we have Somerset College whose principal, Craig Bassingthwaighe, facilitates a small number of international families every year so that their students can have access to the great education Somerset offers. I also know that Emmanuel College at Carrara, ably lead by Patrick Innes-Hill, aims to do the same. In the Mudgeeraba electorate we are lucky to have a number of exceptional schools and educational facilities that offer terrific programs for local and international students.

Schools in my electorate range in size from 13 students at Numinbah Valley State School to 1,852 domestic and international students at All Saints Anglican School. For each of them I have been proud to deliver additional funding and new facilities. These facilities include new or upgraded learning hubs, libraries, tuckshops, classrooms, kitchens, gardens, car parks and playgrounds as well as better equipment, extensive security upgrades and flashing school zone signage.

I would also like to take the opportunity to acknowledge the hard work of the principals I have not yet mentioned: Veronica Wasiak at St Michael's College; Sarah Jane Ash at Springbrook State School, who is currently seconded as an acting principal in the Currumbin electorate; Kelly Fletcher who is acting as principal at Springbrook; Warren Greinkie at Numinbah Valley State School; Daniel Duke, who is also seconded to another position whilst Lindi Chapman is acting as principal at Mudgeeraba State School; the fabulous Colleen Hope at Mudgeeraba Special School; Dr Randall Pointing at Merrimac State School; Craig Douglas at Gilston State School; Deidre von Guillaume at Mudgeeraba Creek State School; Gayle Alessio OAM, who received an OAM in this year's honours, at Clover Hill State School; and Belinda Coulahan at Beechmont State School. I look forward to continuing to support my schools and my principals as they deliver great education outcomes for local and international students in the Mudgeeraba electorate.