




Speech By
Scott Stewart

MEMBER FOR TOWNSVILLE

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MOTION

Independent Public Schools, Order for Production of Documents

 **Mr STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (5.15 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate. As the former principal of an IPS school I can bring my experience to the debate. I will tell members right from the get-go that the evaluation report was never secret squirrel. There was no cone of silence over this. It was published on the Department of Education's website that we were going to evaluate the program, because every teacher knows that you have to evaluate a program to ensure things are working and to know what is not working. I have met with the minister, who has also told me that the evaluation has been completed—

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister for Education, you will direct your comments through the chair or you will stop interjecting. I call the member for Townsville.

Mr STEWART: I have met with the Minister for Education, who has assured me that the evaluation has been completed and is in fact going to cabinet. The Palaszczuk government has repeatedly said that the evaluation does not mean the end of the IPS program. There is nothing to hide with our IPS evaluation. We are a consultative government. We always have been and we always will be. The evaluation thoroughly engaged with education stakeholders including principals' associations, P&Cs, school councils, school leaders, the Department of Education and unions.

As the minister said, we want to know what is working with the IPS model and what is not working with the IPS model. We want to know what opportunities the IPS model presents and how we can spread the learnings across all state schools. I have a number of state schools in my electorate, three of which are independent public schools. I know that my schools are well supported as part of the Palaszczuk government's \$13 billion investment in education this year.

I love research and I love basing what I do on research. Dr Mike Schmoker's research basically says there are a number of factors that influence student learning outcomes, and the first is support from home. This accounts for 50 per cent of the impact on student learning outcomes. This is the attitude towards education in the home and the physical, social, emotional and psychological support they get at home.

The next thing he points out in his research is that the student's peer group contributes 10 per cent to student learning outcomes; that is, the kind of kids that the student hangs around with and their attitudes toward education. I can tell members firsthand that that has an impact on student learning.

The next factor is the type of school or the school that the student goes to, and this also has a 10 per cent influence on student learning outcomes. In other words, there are parents who shop around. They think that if they send their child to a particular school they will end up with a rocket scientist or a brain surgeon. That is not the case. In fact, that only has a 10 per cent impact on student learning

outcomes. What has the biggest impact on student learning outcomes? It is the quality of the teacher. It is that simple. That is what the evidence says. The Palaszczuk government understands that this is the single biggest factor to influence student learning outcomes. That is why the Palaszczuk Labor government is investing billions of dollars into this.

I will unpack that for members. In my electorate alone the I4S funding is \$2.7 million, and that is direct funding to schools. Through consultation, schools make decisions about the best way to spend that money to support the improvement of student learning outcomes at all levels. As to advancing STEM in primary schools, in my electorate alone nearly \$60,000 has been provided directly to schools to develop teacher expertise and implement high-impact strategies to improve student learning outcomes. I could go on for hours and hours about the impact of teaching.

The education policy that the LNP came up with in government was Saturday morning detentions. They came up with 'the breakfast club'. Who are *The Breakfast Club* equivalents in the LNP? Molly Ringwald, the goody-two-shoes, is the member for Nanango. Emilio Estevez, the sporty one, is the member for Everton. The quiet one, Ally Sheedy, is the member for Currumbin. Anthony Michael Hall, the quiet one who was a bit geeky, is the member for Surfers Paradise. We all know that Judd Nelson, the rebel without a cause, is the member for Kawana.

(Time expired)