




Speech By
Steve Minnikin

MEMBER FOR CHATSWORTH

Record of Proceedings, 20 September 2018

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Camp Hill State Infants and Primary School, Air Conditioning

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (2.00 pm): It gives me a great deal of pleasure to rise today to lobby for one of the great schools in my electorate of Chatsworth. With winter now firmly behind us and the mercury quickly rising across Queensland as we approach summer, we will no doubt see many Queenslanders retreating to their air-conditioned homes, offices and classrooms. Sadly, the year 1 and 2 students at Camp Hill State Infants and Primary School are not afforded this opportunity. Directly after PE the children will be patiently waiting in two lines, with faces rather like tomatoes, about to walk into classrooms resembling ovens more than an encouraging learning environment. It is in this challenging situation that the hardworking teachers of Camp Hill State Infants and Primary School will try to get the best out of their students whilst wiping beads of sweat off their own foreheads.

Given our subtropical climate, air conditioning should be a standardised requirement for all Queensland schools. Earlier this year I met with the Camp Hill State Infants and Primary School principal, Ms Deborah Driver, and the P&C president, Ms Nicole Carey, who both informed me that the school had been tirelessly raising funds to finish air conditioning of the remaining classrooms on the campus. I congratulate them and the local school community on their tremendous effort.

Over this time the P&C has fundraised approximately \$35,000 from the goodwill of the wider community which paid for air conditioning to be installed in the special education and the prep classrooms. I applaud the members of the P&C as this was no easy feat. However, after years of fundraising, the fountain of generosity has now, sadly, dried up—the well is dry. With the nation stalling, the school still requires an additional roughly \$25,000 to have all year 1 and 2 classrooms air conditioned. Parents at the Camp Hill State Infants and Primary School have expressed concern for their children's development under the current conditions and as a parent myself I would be gravely concerned sending my kids to school on a 35-degree day with no air conditioning.

The LNP has a plan to see all classrooms in public schools air conditioned by 2028. This is the plan that Queensland families want to see. Parents no longer want to see their kids coming home from school hot, sweaty and red in the face. That is why I launched a petition, which received more than 370 signatures, calling on the Minister for Education to step up and provide these kids and teachers with the best learning and working environment. I table this nonconforming petition.

Tabled paper: Nonconforming petition regarding air conditioning in year 1 and 2 classrooms at Camp Hill State Infant and Primary School [1416].

I urge the minister, a very reasonable lady, to listen to the united voice of the community who are crying out for support. It is quite simple: prove you are providing the best learning environment for our students. This is a fantastic school and certainly the year and 1 and 2 classrooms deserve air conditioning.