




Speech By
Andrew Powell

MEMBER FOR GLASS HOUSE

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ADJOURNMENT

Glass House Electorate, Schools

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (7.03 pm): This evening I want to address a couple of the fantastic things happening in the schools around the electorate of Glass House. One of the first things I have done this term is adopt a practice used by my good friend the member for Burnett, and that is to work with the men's sheds around the electorate to build buddy benches for my local schools. The first one was delivered to Mooloolah State School and it was well constructed by the men of the Maleny Men's Shed. There was also one delivered to Elimbah State School that was constructed by the men of the Wamuran Men's Shed. We have received some feedback from that school and I want to read into the *Hansard* some of the words from the principal, Leisa Woods. She said—

I am happy to tell you that our junior school students were very excited to be receiving a buddy bench for their play area. Following the success of the buddy bench in our senior playground, I have witnessed our younger students accessing the bench to let their peers know that they are feeling lonely and looking for someone to play with. Watching other students go over and check in on them is very heart-warming. We would like to thank Andrew and the Wamuran Men's shed for their generous donation.

I also want to specifically acknowledge Kevin Hansen, Bill Newton, Evan Jones and Neville Parsons from the Wamuran Men's Shed for the construction of the buddy bench, as well as the Wamuran sawmill for contributing the materials. Neville, the treasurer of the Wamuran Men's Shed, said—

The Wamuran Men's Shed is always happy to assist with these sorts of projects, it gives many of the members confidence in themselves and helps rebuild their lives.

We also have a buddy bench on its way to Eudlo State School that is being constructed by the Blackall Range Woodcrafters Guild as we speak.

One of the other fantastic things we have instituted is our parliamentary tours and barbecues that I have been holding with state schools in my electorate. The most recent tour on 11 March was for the composite 5/6 class at Mount Mee State School alongside their teacher, Sarah Summers, and their principal, Pam Carlile. It was super. The kids could not stop gawking at the amazing building, the reading room and the green chamber, and then they hoed into a barbecue, which I cooked myself up on level 7. I will read some of the comments from the kids. Megan said—

My favourite room was the Green Room because it's where you make all of Queensland's important decisions. I wonder what it would be like to stand up and talk, I would be so nervous.

Olivia said—

It is unbelievable how old and original some of the buildings are and how important Parliament really is.

Thank you, Olivia, for that comment. Jessie said—

I still can't believe I got to see the actual Mace in person!

This next one was my personal favourite. Josh said—

Thank you for the yummy barbecue, would never be able to have one that good at home (no offence mum and dad).

Thanks, Josh, mate. I take my barbecuing seriously.

Finally, I want to acknowledge a year 12 student from St Columban's College, Jack McSweeney. Jack is a Woodford local and he has been selected to represent Glass House at the Queensland Youth Parliament. He is a great community kid and he is going to have a fantastic time as my representative here in the Youth Parliament.