




Speech By
Charis Mullen

MEMBER FOR JORDAN

Record of Proceedings, 28 February 2019

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Springfield Learning Coalition

 **Mrs MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (2.33 pm): In acknowledgement of International Mother Language Day I say 'Σας ευχαριστώ ομιλητής', which means 'Thank you, Speaker' in my mother language of Greek, a heritage I am extremely proud of. Last week I was also very proud to help officially launch the Springfield Learning Coalition. The coalition is a partnership which formalises an agreement by Greater Springfield's 11 local schools—state and private—working together to further Springfield as a learning city. As outlined by the group, a learning city is an aspiration whereby lifelong learning is expected and valued by the whole community, where learning can be seen and felt to flourish, opportunities and choices abound, and curiosity and discovery are championed. I would like to acknowledge Springfield City Group for initiating the development of this important partnership and for its ongoing support of our schools within the region.

The 11 schools have signed an MOU that our education leaders will cooperate and exchange information and best practice on opportunities for collective benefit. The learning coalition will only be involved in higher order matters. They will not intrude into operational things but will only complement the well-loved identities and brands of our individual schools.

The Springfield Learning Coalition has set itself some challenging goals: sharing data and resources; planning for more growth in our region—with the number of students expected to double over the next 15 years this is a challenge for us all; pursuing learning excellence; and working together on jobs and pathways—how we provide opportunities for our students to get training, higher education or qualifications towards a career or employment.

Later this year the learning coalition will take its first step towards furthering the learning city by presenting the inaugural biennial Festival of Learning in Greater Springfield. The Festival of Learning, to be held from 21 to 26 October 2019, will include a wide range of events and activities across the region celebrating learning, with an ambitious aim of 50 events across the week. I am very excited to see such an amazing initiative in the Jordan electorate. I have already been speaking with our principals about the events they are planning to deliver over the week-long celebrations.

We have close to 11,000 students attending schools in the Greater Springfield region. This means that the work of the Springfield Learning Coalition will have an enormous effect on the lives of the many young people who live in my electorate. It reminds me of a quote by Benjamin Franklin—

Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn.

I would like to thank our 11 principals for their teaching but, more importantly, I want to thank them for their deep involvement in our community. I wish the Springfield Learning Coalition every success.