



Speech By  
**Charis Mullen**


**MEMBER FOR JORDAN**

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**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**Greater Springfield Festival of Learning**

 **Mrs MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (2.03 pm): Earlier this week I officially opened the Greater Springfield Festival of Learning. The week-long festival includes a wide range of connected events and activities across Greater Springfield that showcase and celebrate learning. It is also the first project of the Springfield Learning Coalition, which I was fortunate to launch earlier this year. The coalition is a partnership that formalises an agreement by Greater Springfield's 11 local schools, state and non-state, 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.

Greater Springfield is truly becoming a learning city.

Some 10,000 students and a further 4,000 children aged between zero and four live and learn in the area. From the very first school to open in the region in 1998, Woodcrest State College, to our very newest school, Spring Mountain State School, which opened its doors in the first term of this year, I am so very proud of all our local schools. I want to ensure that all students are given a world-class education, which is the key for our young people to build a bright future.

I would like to acknowledge Springfield City Group for initiating the development of this important partnership and for their ongoing support of our schools and the Learning Festival. Starting with a professional learning day for over 600 local educators on Monday morning, the Learning Festival has included a series of activities across all of the participating schools. Those have ranged from writing workshops, Lego Legends master classes, AFL skills development workshops, Indigenous language lessons, nature play activities and coding drones, to name a few. The range and depth of the various activities led by our local schools is absolutely amazing. The festival will culminate in a community learning day on Saturday, where a display of the learning triumphs throughout the festival will be on show.

It is wonderful that the inaugural biennial Greater Springfield Festival of Learning is taking place during State Education Week. State Education Week is a time for us all to celebrate the amazing achievements of our Queensland school communities, with this year's theme being 'Creating opportunities'. I think that theme perfectly aligns with the work of the Springfield Learning Coalition. Their objectives are ambitious and smart. Promoting innovation, collaboration, and creative and critical thinking in education are all very worthy aims and they are common themes outlined in the Queensland government's own Advancing Education agenda.

The Festival of Learning held this week has provided opportunities for some 2,000 local educators to share ideas and showcase their expertise. This first important initiative of the Learning Coalition is a great example of the amazing synergy that can happen when people come together. Thank you to all involved in organising for the schools, the university and other learning providers to

open their doors so that our community can view, participate, share and learn. Thank you to all of the principals from our 11 schools for working together to deliver outstanding opportunities and outcomes for local students.