



Speech By  
**Daniel Purdie**


**MEMBER FOR NINDERRY**

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## ADJOURNMENT

### Ninderry Electorate, Peter Doherty Awards

 **Mr PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (6.25 pm): I am lucky in my electorate of Ninderry to have some first-class schools giving our kids a world-class education. During the week, I had the privilege of attending two of these schools and meeting two local winners of the Peter Doherty Awards for Excellence in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. These prestigious awards are named after Professor Peter Doherty, a Brisbane born Nobel Prize winner and former student of Indooroopilly State High School. He won the award for his research in the field of immunology and influenza.

Peregian Springs State School year 6 teacher Sandy Neisler is one of only five teachers across the state to receive the award for teaching excellence in recognition of his passion for all things science related. On the day I visited Sandy at the school, his year 6 students were mentoring students from year 4 in robotics and virtual reality. I must admit that I was amazed to see kids in grade 4 on the computer doing robotics and virtual reality when I know—and some members in the House might agree—that Outlook and Explorer sometimes trouble me. It was certainly amazing to see these tiny kids working on robotics and virtual reality. Their teacher's interest and passion for STEM has clearly influenced the students who are embracing these new technologies like ducks to water. Sandy admits to loving emerging technologies and thinking about ways they can be used to make life easier. Sandy said his job was made much easier thanks to the support of his principal, Dr Gwen Sands, and his colleagues at Peregian Springs State School where his interest and passion are encouraged.

Just around the corner, St Andrew's Anglican College is also scoring goals in STEM subjects, with year 12 student Sam Rieger one of only 12 students across the state to receive the Peter Doherty outstanding student award. According to Sam, STEM is the future and there is little doubt he is passionate and is positioning himself to be at the forefront of those emerging fields thanks to the quality education he is receiving. I also acknowledge the principal, Chris Ivey, who is fostering an amazing learning environment at St Andrew's.

Labour force data already indicates that jobs in STEM related occupations are growing significantly faster than other occupations. We know that many of the jobs of the future will be based in STEM so it is important that students are given as much opportunity as possible to enhance their knowledge, learning and passion in these subjects. Figures show that a one per cent increase in people choosing STEM careers could contribute an additional \$50 billion to the Australian economy and that 40 per cent of the workforce will be replaced by technology in the next 10 years.

It is amazing to see what our students are learning and achieving in our local schools. The sky is the limit for them thanks to the high-quality teaching resources on the coast and in my electorate of Ninderry.