




Speech By
Glenn Butcher

MEMBER FOR GLADSTONE

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Gladstone Electorate, Smith Family

 **Mr BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (2.58 pm): I rise this afternoon to share a story of great effort and triumph—other than that of the Deputy Premier and Treasurer's budget speech yesterday. The Smith Family is a children's charity helping disadvantaged children in Australia to get the most out of their education so they can create better futures for themselves. For the past 12 months, they have been helping the children of the Gladstone electorate. The Smith Family have worked tirelessly since they started in Gladstone and have grown to nearly 300 students being supported, and that is projected to grow in the next 12 to 18 months to 600 scholarships by 2020.

We know how valuable a good education is, particularly for our young people, but we also know how many impediments there are to getting an education. It was wonderful to join them recently to mark this amazing milestone in Gladstone. It is even more wonderful to be standing here today in a Toolooa State High School blazer to mark the Smith Family fundraising challenge. I would like to acknowledge Jenny Morris, the guidance officer and P&C president, for helping to get the fundraising going.

The senior leadership team at the school came up with a list of challenges that teachers and admin staff would carry out as they reached different levels of the fundraising challenge they set. These included Mr Thomas wearing a tutu; 'Hicksy' shaving his beard and then, when they reach their next goal, shaving his head; the admin staff having crazy hair day—I do not need to worry about that—and me wearing a red suit in parliament. I went one better today and I am proud to say that I am wearing the Toolooa State High School blazer in the parliamentary chamber.

The school raised an outstanding \$3,216.30 for the Smith Family. Because I like round numbers, I am telling the school while they are watching the live stream that I am going to bump it up to \$4,000 for them, mostly because I want to see Mr Slape wear a Hawaiian shirt for the week and the maths and English departments compete in a dance-off with each other; that should be hysterical for the kids. More importantly, it is because of this great charity doing really great work in our community and helping the kids in need in my electorate.

I have seen firsthand the difference that the Smith Family can make to families and children's lives in Gladstone. I have always seen the generosity from community members and particularly local businesses and industry. I would like to acknowledge today the support of Orica in Gladstone to the tune of a \$500,000 donation they have made up to 2020. That is wonderful support.

While I am on my feet, I would like to acknowledge that the budget that was released yesterday continued funding for this wonderful school at Toolooa with \$4.2 million for the building of new classrooms for those students. That is a well-deserved build. I thank and acknowledge the Minister for Education, who is here with us today. I say congratulations to the school. Keep up the great work. You are doing a good job.