




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR NUDGEES

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ADJOURNMENT

Nudgee Electorate, School Leaders

 **Ms LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (7.21 pm): Recently, I welcomed school leaders from Earnshaw State College, along with deputy principal Kathleen Wenban, to parliament for a school leaders lunch. Nineteen years ago, as school captain of the former Banyo state high school, which is now Earnshaw State College, I was invited to a similar lunch by my local member, the then member for Nudgee Neil Roberts. As the now member for Nudgee, it is a great privilege to have the opportunity to continue this tradition and invite these brilliant young leaders to share their ideas, their values and their reflections on leadership, youth and politics in this honoured place.

Jemma, Britney, Zachary and Chelsea were bright, engaging, humble and grounded. They have been distinguished by their peers and selected to these important leadership roles. I know they will lead and serve the Earnshaw community with distinction in the coming year. Earnshaw State College is one of three high schools in my electorate and I look forward to also welcoming school leaders from Nudgee College and Mary Mackillop College in the coming sitting weeks.

Having school leaders and students visit parliament is always a special occasion for members. I would like to acknowledge the generous and warm way that all members greet respective members' visiting students. During our time together, members from across the political divide took the time to stop and say hello to my school leaders. This year, the timing of our lunch was impeccable as the Premier walked through the dining room just as the students were finishing their lunch and without hesitation stopped for a quick chat and photos with the students. I know it was a day that they will not forget in a hurry.

I hope that young people will always feel welcome and celebrated in this place and are inspired to hope and strive for much greater heights than we can yet imagine. With Queensland Youth Week commencing next week, I think it is timely to stop and acknowledge the considerable achievements and contributions that young people make to our state. The theme for 2019 is Unlimited, celebrating the boundless energy that young people bring to our communities and encouraging them to look to the future and see limitless possibilities.

Although Youth Week focuses on young people aged 12 to 25, I think it is a message that children and young people of all ages need to hear, because the world they live in and will inherit is full of limitless possibilities—although the events of this past week may make it seem anything but—and because it is too often the reverse of hope and possibility that fills our conversations and fuels the social media and media sound bites that dominate their lives. As we approach Youth Week, and as I am never one to miss an opportunity to quote RFK, I say to the young people of my electorate and to all young Queenslanders, including my own children—

All of us might wish at times that we lived in a more tranquil world, but we don't. And if our times are difficult and perplexing, so are they challenging and filled with opportunity.