




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR GAVEN

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Nerang Alliance Network; State Schools, Federal Funding

 **Ms SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (2.21 pm): Last week I had the great privilege of attending one of the meetings of the Nerang Alliance Network which brings together primary schools and early learning services to assist children in their transition into prep. The work has included the establishment of practical strategies to ensure that all children are provided with the very best start in life. In partnership with the Gold Coast University Hospital Allied Health Services and Griffith University, the Nerang Alliance Network is focused on a three-stage process of identification, planning and building referral pathways for students not at a typical development level. The initiative has been formalised through an MOU with the Queensland Department of Education and has kicked off with two proposed research projects focused on transition to school and early language development with a number of occupational therapy, speech pathology and physio students engaged with the program.

This is an amazing initiative that is changing the lives of young people in our community so I want to encourage as many families as possible to be a part of this program and ensure their children access the suggested community health checks. I also want to acknowledge all members of this alliance, but in particular Landon Dare, the principal at Worongary State School, who leads this program, along with early years coach Lyndel Chambers.

What would help our educators and our kids is fairer funding from the federal government. The Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison government has still not provided any certainty around kindergarten funding for children in the year before school and no Commonwealth commitment past the end of this year, leaving families and early learning services in limbo. State schools are also getting left behind under the Morrison government's model. Fairer funding could mean smaller class sizes, more one-on-one support, additional teachers and support staff and more support for children with a disability and behavioural needs, something that I am particularly passionate about given my own brother's experience.

The P&Cs in my electorate work incredibly hard to fundraise for their schools because they know that extra money does make a difference. It is an absolute joke for the LNP to claim that it cannot afford to help public schools while under its watch big business and millionaires are getting more and more. In stark contrast, federal Labor has committed that in the first three years of a Shorten government schools in my community would receive almost \$5.5 million of extra funding. I will be watching with interest when the federal government hands down its budget on Tuesday to see if Stuart Robert, Steven Ciobo, Karen Andrews and Bert Van Manen stand up for our schools or if they once again turn their back on our community and choose big business and the banks over our future.