




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR MACALISTER

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Macalister Electorate, Schools

 **Mrs McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (2.29 pm): Our state schools are great schools and in my electorate of Macalister we have some of the best. I say that not because I am biased—although I am—but because some of my state schools have been judged by others more learned in the field than I to be the best. It is not lost on me that the motto of Beenleigh State School is 'Nothing but the best'. Beenleigh State School was selected to be a finalist in the National Education Awards for school of the year. It was one of the final five state schools to be in the running for school of the year, nationally. That is an amazing achievement for a great little school of some 470 students. The Beenleigh area can be complex, but the school is dealing with those challenges head-on and is still delivering results for its students.

The National Education Awards were held last Friday night. The team from Beenleigh State School attended with great hopes. Unfortunately, on the night they did not come away as winner of school of the year. That accolade went to a New South Wales state school. However, that takes nothing away from the achievements of Beenleigh State School. I have spoken to Principal Adam Knights and he is quietly confident that next year's cohort of students will deliver even better results. I wish them luck for next year.

In the Beenleigh area another two state schools are putting their best foot forward. Beenleigh Special School has been nominated as a state finalist in the Education Queensland Showcase Awards for Excellence in Schools. Beenleigh Special School has been nominated as a finalist in the category of early and primary years for its program titled 'I've got more to say'. In the past five years, Beenleigh Special School's numbers have doubled. To be able to cope with that growth and still deliver an award-winning program is a testimonial to the dedication of Principal Nicole Finch and all her staff. I ask the House to note that this is the first time that a special school has been nominated as a state finalist, not in the inclusive education category but in the general early and primary years category. I am sure members will be agree that that is an amazing achievement.

However, those are not the only schools in my electorate. I have more. Beenleigh State High School is one of my great state schools. I have spoken regularly about the school in this House. Beenleigh State High School is nominated as a state finalist for excellence in parent and community engagement for hosting Beenleigh's favourite annual event, Paddock to Plate. Paddock to Plate showcases the school's agricultural program, including the beef and poultry programs, as well as its fruit and vegetable crops. Chef Matt Golinski mentors the catering and hospitality students who compile and deliver a three-course meal that is to die for. The event is so well supported by the local community that it sells out months in advance.

The Paddock to Plate initiative springboards into the school's exchange to China. Selected students travel to China to spend their school holidays doing an internship at a Marco Polo hotel. Beenleigh State High School is providing amazing opportunities for pathways for its students. I commend Principal Matt O'Hanlon and his trade training team for ensuring that they have great career pathways. I wish all of our schools the best in the upcoming awards.