



Speech By  
**Scott Stewart**


**MEMBER FOR TOWNSVILLE**

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## ADJOURNMENT

### Townsville Electorate, Education Week

 **Mr STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (7.21 pm): Happy Education Week! I know that many members in this House love visiting the schools in their electorates, and the member for Bundaberg spoke very finely about the kids who came to visit him. It is the same with me. I went to Railway Estate State School on Friday and it was a bit of a special day because that was a school affected by floods. Flooding destroyed one of its playgrounds, but it was a playground previously made out of Koppers logs and the termites had decided that they would get amongst it and, unfortunately, it was not able to be repaired. I was able to talk to the minister and she gave the school \$100,000 to build a brand-new playground. I went to the opening of that playground and saw kids on that playground, and those kids were so happy. They could not stop climbing over the apparatus. They thought this was the absolute bee's knees.

**Mr Crandon:** Did you get on with them?

**Mr STEWART:** If I went on the slippery slide I think I might break it, so I left it up to the kids. These are the fine things that we do in each of our electorates. When we can deliver little simple projects like this where we see smiles on kids' faces, it is worth what we do. When I listen to a lot of members in this House they are married to teachers or they knew a teacher at some stage because they taught them how to read and write. The teachers that we have in our lives each and every day—and some of us are married to them, but fortunately I am not; my daughter is a teacher as well, member for Burleigh—play an important role in our lives. They really shape our kids.

When I was working in the industry, in high school particularly, time and time again some of the most stabilising people in kids' lives were teachers. There were a number of times that kids would go to teachers about some really personal advice—beyond what they would get from their parents. They were looking for someone who would give them that advice for life. Sometimes they would ask them some really tough questions like, 'When's the right time to have sex?' Those are some of the things that kids rely on our teachers for. This week is Education Week and I thank each and every teacher who has walked into a classroom and who has impacted upon the lives of our kids right across our communities since the day dot when Queensland was declared a state. I also want to thank each and every minister—both current and previous—who has had an impact on shaping education across the state because I think they have done an outstanding job as well.