



Speech By  
**Bart Mellish**


**MEMBER FOR ASPLEY**

---

Record of Proceedings, 2 December 2021

## **PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENT**

### **Aspley Electorate, Schools**

 **Mr MELLISH** (Aspley—ALP) (2.09 pm): I would love to give a recap on a challenging but ultimately successful year for local schools in my electorate of Aspley. It was great to see a school year that was much less disrupted than elsewhere in Australia and less disrupted than last year. Our graduating year 12 students were able to have their final exams and their school formals with very minimal restrictions, which was great to see. They were even able to go to schoolies on the Gold Coast and elsewhere. Similarly, our year 6 students graduating from our primary schools were able to celebrate that milestone with their friends as they transition on to different high schools and different pathways.

I give my enormous gratitude to our local principals, teachers, teacher aides, school staff, cleaners and everyone else involved in the day-to-day running of our great schools for being able to adapt and adjust to required health measures, such as mask wearing, social distancing and everything else we have had to get used to over the last two years. Of course our parents and the students themselves are also to be congratulated for their resilience through an anxious time as we saw other states and other parts of the world battling COVID outbreaks, school shutdowns and city lockdowns that we were able to largely avoid in Queensland thanks to the tough decisions of our Premier and health minister in particular.

In terms of how I can best support our locals schools, I will continue to fight for upgrades and improvements across our community. It was a great day last week when I joined the education minister, principal Jacquita Miller, P&C president Ian Marshman, teachers and students to formally open the brand new sports hall and performing arts centre at Aspley State High School. These two new buildings will see the school go from strength to strength, helping their outstanding sports programs—including football of course—as well as Aspley's high-achieving music programs and other performing arts, such as dance. I congratulate the principal and the school community for pushing for this for many years. I was so pleased to commit to this project in 2017, and with the help of the education minister we made it happen. It will be a great boost for the entire Aspley community now and well into the future.

In the new year, Bald Hills State School will be receiving a refurbished administration building which will see accessibility improvements for teachers, students and visitors to the school. Additionally, there have been significant investments in the local special schools in the electorate of Aspley, including over \$11 million towards Aspley Special School and over \$7 million towards Geebung Special School which will see additional classrooms being built at both schools. These are fantastic schools which do phenomenal work and service the broader northside community.

There is also additional capital works investment in many other schools in my electorate, including Aspley State School, Aspley State High School, Geebung State School and Zillmere State School, among others. We cannot forget the investment in Craigslea State High School for a new volleyball centre of excellence which will be growing volleyballers to compete in our home Olympics in the 2032 Brisbane Olympic Games.

On a final note, it has been a great pleasure to again sponsor local support dogs in our local schools, including Alfie at Aspley State High School and Gatsby at Craigslea State High School. I give a warm welcome to new addition Arlo who is starting at Aspley Special School next year. Well done to every school on a great 2021 and I look forward to 2022.