




Speech By
Corrine McMillan

MEMBER FOR MANSFIELD

Record of Proceedings, 25 February 2021

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Mansfield State High School, Academic Performance

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (2.47 pm): I know that I would rather have a university than car parking in my electorate. The 2020 graduating class have endured new times. They were our first preppies—a Bligh Labor government educational improvement strategy—the first to experience year 7 in a high school, more recently the first to navigate the new ATAR process as a means of entry to tertiary education, and the first cohort to embark on their final year of school during a global pandemic.

Despite the many challenges, our Queensland students' educational achievements are something of which we should all be proud. Our schools remain at the heart of, and are central to, the economic progress of our communities right across Queensland. Claus Moser once said, 'Education costs money, but then so does ignorance.' Our schools are buildings with the future of Queensland inside.

I urge every member of this House to reject the politicised mistruths and propaganda of the ignorant and to take the time to learn of their schools' academic achievements, for all are working diligently and strategically on a precise journey of continued school improvement. They are deserving of our belief, our support and our adulation.

In my community, Mansfield State High School student results have followed a six-year improvement trajectory and are outstanding. Our students' results reflect their hard work, the collegial and collaborative support of educators working together across classrooms, effective teachers and strong educational leaders who apply explicit and precise strategies to improve student learning, and the sacrifices that countless parents have made—not only financially but also in time, effort and emotional support—to nurture their children's education.

Thirty students across Queensland received an ATAR of 99.95—the highest possible rank. One of those students was Mansfield State High School's Katherine Nguyen. Katherine should be proud of her success. Derek Liang received an ATAR of 99.9. Eighteen students, six per cent, achieved an ATAR of 99 or above. Seventy-eight students, 28 per cent, achieved an ATAR of 95 or above. One hundred and thirty-three students, 48 per cent, achieved an ATAR of 90 or above. The results achieved are equivalent to 20 students achieving an OP 1 and 32 students achieving an OP 2.

Some 315 students from Mansfield State High School have been offered a tertiary place—99 students at QUT and 110 students who are starting at the University of Queensland, my own alma mater. I am one of the many local members in this House who is not ignorant and who is immensely proud of the students, parents and teachers in my community and all that they have achieved.