



Speech By  
**Jason Hunt**


**MEMBER FOR CALOUNDRA**

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Record of Proceedings, 14 October 2021

**PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENT**

**Caloundra State High School, EDGE Group**

 **Mr HUNT** (Caloundra—ALP) (2.03 pm): Today I rise to highlight the work of my old high school, Caloundra State High School, which simply reinforces to me the privilege of representing the town that you grew up in. I have always maintained that our youth are highly impressive and that the future is in very good hands. I will expand on that now.

Friday just gone, I received an invitation to attend a performance by the EDGE dance group from Cooper Moller, a year 11 student at Caloundra High. What a magnificent performance it was. My wife and I were absolutely spellbound from the first dance to the final curtain. EDGE stands for Extension Dance Group. It is a program that has been operating at Caloundra High since 2005. Students with aspirations in the field of dance can audition for the program from year 7 through to year 12. The evidence of its excellence was there for all to see on Saturday evening.

At the Australian TST Championships, Caloundra high blitzed it. Their breathtaking routine, *Ashes*, which they recently performed for the minister and myself, not only earned them a first place but also was performed at this most recent performance. It is a perfect showcase not only of Caloundra High's extension program but also of the incredible talent that the program fosters.

The solo dance routines were emotive, powerful and a credit to every member of EDGE. I witnessed one group performance that was so well done and so professional that I was stunned to later learn that the group was from year 7. Then out came a heavily sequined solo performer by the name of Rojan Mardens. If you want to gauge his performance, you can quickly jump onto YouTube and look at any dance by the famous Gene Kelly. That young year 9 dancer performed a tap routine that could easily have been on stage at QPAC.

I am almost reluctant to single out individuals but the solo performances by Cooper Moller, Meiling Wyre, Zerah Wildman, Paige Carter, Lillee Raabe, Sophie Wharton, Ruby Jordan, Nikara Newbery and Shea Prescott had to be seen to be believed. The emotion, the athleticism, the grace and the beauty of their performances almost defies description—yet I did just describe them. There was also an element of sadness as the year 12 dancers—Sami Tebbit, Lilly Raabe, Shannon Holding and Bridie Kreiger-Redden—performed for the last time before graduating later this year. However, I have seen the amazing depth of talent that EDGE provides and the future looks incredibly bright.

To the EDGE group I say: I cannot thank you enough. You are an inspiration. To the teachers directly responsible—Anita Hounslow, Amber Williams and Lisa Royter—congratulations; your program is a triumph. To the mighty Caloundra State High School, thank you for providing the quality education that our young students deserve.