



Speech By  
**Jessica Pugh**


**MEMBER FOR MOUNT OMMANEY**

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## **ADJOURNMENT**

### **Premier's Reading Challenge**

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (7.09 pm): One of my favourite things as a parent has to be the Premier's Reading Challenge. We have just had a bumper education budget, but every single year I love having my kids participate—

**An opposition member:** Is she reading already?

**Ms PUGH:** She is a very smart baby; yes, indeed. We just absolutely love having our kids participate in the Premier's Reading Challenge right throughout all of the schools in Mount Ommaney. We just happen to be blessed with a plethora of really fantastic published local authors. Recently I met with Melissa Ashley, the publisher of *The Birdman's Wife*, a wonderful book. She has just published her second novel. We also have some absolutely fantastic children's authors. Locally published Sue Sheppard has published a wonderful book, *Polar Bear's Brown Boots*. It sounds like a cute little story about a polar bear wearing shoes; it is actually a wonderful children's story about climate change. It is a fantastic read and a really great way for parents to relate these issues to their kids. Local dad Scott Cohen, who is sick with cancer, has written a beautiful story, *You Can't Go to Bed with a Giraffe on Your Head*. It is a love letter from a sick dad to his son. It is an absolutely beautiful story and it can be purchased online. I will be donating these books to the Parliamentary Library so that everybody can have a read.

Of course, you cannot get through the Premier's Reading Challenge with only three books; you need a few more. That is where the Good News Lutheran School fete comes in handy. Every single year they have a book themed fete. Last weekend, Milton Dick and I went along. We stocked up on cookbooks and kids' books. It is the local equivalent of the Lifeline Book Fair. People come from all over the western suburbs and beyond to stock up on good, cheap reads. We also have a second-hand bookshop run by Linda from Corinda. A Page or Two, on Oxley Road in Corinda, is a wonderful second-hand bookshop where people can stock up and get a few extra books. It is increasingly rare to come across a second-hand bookshop in this day and age. It is really nice to have that in my electorate.

In the time left I want to give a special congratulations on the Premier's Reading Challenge to one of my schools. As I said, all of my primary schools participate, but one school in my electorate, Darra State School, has a 100 per cent participation rate in the Premier's Reading Challenge. That is something that only a handful of schools in Queensland achieve every single year. Darra has a very high percentage of children who do not speak English at home, so this is a really magnificent achievement for the school. It is something they have worked very hard on for a number of years. Tonight in the House I acknowledge that achievement, because it is important to them and it is important to me. Congratulations, Darra State School.