




Speech By
Jonty Bush

MEMBER FOR COOPER

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PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENT

The Gap State High School

 **Ms BUSH** (Cooper—ALP) (3.10 pm): I do not need to convince anyone here about the value of investing in our public school system. Queensland's state schools are world class and I am thrilled to put on the record the achievements of one of the state schools in my electorate, The Gap State High School. As the only public high school located directly in my electorate, the school experiences incredible demand. In the past five years alone enrolments have soared. The school is now sitting at over 1,700 enrolments for 2022. That demand has required the school administration and community to respond with agility, thoughtfulness and care. The school really is an exemplar of how to do that. I will take members through just a few of its accomplishments in recent years.

The Gap State High School produces outstanding academic outcomes, continually scoring over the national average on their NAPLAN results. As we all know, despite being an important measure, academic results really are just one measure and it is the school's culture that I would especially like to celebrate. The Gap State High School's four pillars are: think big, step up, pay it forward and be kind. Every day I open my social media to see a post from The Gap State High School promoting one of those principles. They are embedded in the school's programs and recognition systems. The result of that is young people who are capable and confident and really are our future leaders.

The Gap State High School runs a number of programs, including the specialist Applied Positive Psychology program that works with students to improve and reflect on their leadership capabilities, their wellbeing and their resilience. Students are coached towards developing a growth mindset, which is a skill that will set them up for life. The school has an outstanding hospitality program. Every time I encounter a young person in a cafe in my electorate, they are either a former or current student of The Gap State High School.

The school focuses on year 13, ensuring all students have a pathway either into tertiary education or employment beyond their school career. That is so important. Many of us can relate to the challenges with managing the transition from high school. Most recently The Gap State High School was selected for the Queensland government's GPs in Schools Pilot program. It is a wonderful program that connects students with clinical support and guidance, conveniently located in the school system. Last weekend they were involved in the vaccine rollout.

I am proud that the Queensland government has played an active role in The Gap State High School's success. Just in the 12 months I have been elected, our government has funded a complete overhaul of the school's tuckshop, the refurbishment of their basketball court and we are still watching the construction of the J block with 10 general learning areas, two visual arts classrooms, a staffroom, an open learning area, additional car parks and solar panels to be installed on five blocks.

I want to recognise everyone who has had a role in the development of the school, particularly Principal Anne McLauchlan and her executive team as well as the teachers, teacher aides, gardeners and cleaners. The whole team is exemplary. I acknowledge the P&C President, Leigh Passfield, who I

know is watching—hi, Leigh—and the entire P&C. They do a brilliant job. I also acknowledge our 2021 student leaders: Joshua Ho, Ella Passfield, Peta Kiopelis and Douglas Kirkland. I wholeheartedly congratulate the school.