




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR MACALISTER

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PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENT

Macalister Electorate, Coronavirus

 **Mrs McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (2.52 pm): I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to my community in responding to the recent COVID delta cluster. Just over two weeks ago, I became aware of a Windaroo resident who had tested positive for COVID-19. Contact tracers went straight to work and our Queensland Health team did a fantastic job.

At the centre of this potential outbreak was an early childhood learning centre and Windaroo State School—my largest state primary school with over 950 students. I would like to thank the over 1,000 families who went into home quarantine at a moment's notice. All those close contact families were identified and tested largely within a 24-hour period. I would like to acknowledge the community that rallied behind these families, supported them and then went on to give the rest of the South-East Queensland population confidence by going out and getting tested in large numbers over that weekend. As a result, the Chief Health Officer was given a comprehensive set of numbers to consider the risk that this cluster posed to the local community. A school that was shut down for potentially 14 days on a Friday afternoon was open again the following Tuesday morning.

I would like to thank the Windaroo State School community—its parents and students, its staff and the school leadership team headed by principal Alisha Le Brese—for their quick response, their adaptability and their resilience. I was able to host some of the school executive group student leaders and their parents here at Parliament House on Monday night and congratulate them publicly and deservedly.

We still have over 100 families in home quarantine—those close contact families who attended the early childhood education centre. There are only a few days left for most of them and I would like to acknowledge their sacrifice for the sake of the community. I would especially like to acknowledge Ros and the team at the Coffee Cube at Mount Warren Park who have been making coffee deliveries to the quarantine families—because there are some sacrifices that are just too great.

Lastly, I would like to send our best wishes to Jorgee, who is currently doing it tough in the Gold Coast University Hospital with Holly and Noah. I cannot imagine being a mum in hospital alongside two of your kids as they struggle through their COVID treatment. Her 14 days had to start again when young Noah tested positive and joined them last week. This family did nothing wrong and complied with all health restrictions but were in the wrong place at the wrong time and as a result have borne the brunt of this delta cluster.

It is a timely reminder for all members in this House that, when we hear these daily numbers, they are not just numbers; they are people and their lives are turned upside down and potentially imperilled by this pandemic.