



Speech By  
**Trevor Watts**


**MEMBER FOR TOWOOMBA NORTH**

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## ADJOURNMENT

### Toowoomba North State School

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (6.21 pm): I rise to talk a little bit about one of my schools and let the House know it is travelling. Toowoomba North State School is a great primary school in my electorate. In the time that I have been a member of this House I have seen the school grow. It has nearly doubled in size in that time. It now has just over 200 students. It is right in the heart of the city. It is a very old school. It is 152 years old this year. I was fortunate enough to be at the 150-year celebration a couple of years ago in 2019 when we opened a time capsule which was particularly interesting. Many of the old photographs and information about the school were presented. It has a very proud history.

I was very fortunate to be there the other day at the leadership badge ceremony when I had the opportunity to present some solid pathways in STEM that were achieved last year by three students. These students have worked really hard to get the recognition and the qualifications to get certificates in the STEM subjects.

There is something about the school that the House should know. It has a multicultural population. It has a lot of Yazidi students who are newly arrived Australians. The one thing it does not have is an indoor sports hall. In fact, it does not have any enclosed area where the children can play sport. When we gathered in the library—on that particular day everybody had brought their teddy bear to school as well—it was absolutely crowded. Parents could not all get in without standing at the back to be able to see the leadership badge presentation. The library area has to be cleared and all the furniture moved so that the school can gather together.

There is a hall that was covered a number of years ago. If they could get this hall enclosed, they would have an area that would allow the children to gather in the middle of winter. I can assure you if you come to Toowoomba in the middle of August when the wind is blowing you will be looking for a covered area to gather at lunchtime. It would be inexpensive to achieve, but it would make a world of difference to this very hardworking school with a population that does not have the same resources that many other schools in this state have.

I will be writing to the minister about it. I have spoken to her, so it is not a surprise. I am not trying to be overly political. I just think the school deserves to have its hall area enclosed so that they can have assemblies together and celebrate together and so that the school community, as it grows and revitalises in the heart of Toowoomba, has somewhere to keep them out of the wind and the rain in the middle of winter.