




Speech By
Rob Molhoek

MEMBER FOR SOUTHPORT

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ADJOURNMENT

Southport Electorate

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (8.54 pm): I am not sure if Southport is quite as multicultural as the seat of Stretton, but we are certainly coming after you. In the last census Southport was identified as one of the most multicultural census collection districts in the nation, with some 46 per cent of the population born overseas and 28.7 per cent of households that speak a language other than English in their home. Four per cent of the population speak Mandarin; 2.5 per cent speak Korean; two per cent speak Japanese; 1.5 per cent speak Spanish; and one per cent speak Cantonese. That is probably why Southport is thriving when it comes to international education.

I rise tonight particularly to praise the work of Study Gold Coast, which is led by the Hon. Rob Borbidge AO, former Premier of Queensland, who is chair, and CEO Alfred Slogrove. During COVID international education did suffer some setbacks, but prior to COVID the Gold Coast and Southport were on track to receive more than 40,000 international students. Unfortunately, that took a little bit of a hit during COVID so there were only about 30,000 international students on the coast at that time. While we lost some, we gained a significant number from the southern states because of the excellent work of Study Gold Coast in looking after many of those students.

There are some 38 individual colleges and training institutes in Southport. We have Griffith University, which has a huge student population, but more importantly we have a number of other institutions such as: Academie College, led by David and Nanae Dolly; Barrington College, a fantastic hospitality provider; and a new college that just started last week, Demi International, led by Ann Donnarumma specialising in beauty therapy training. The Gold Coast TAFE campus in Southport specialises in allied health, hospitality and tourism and has a trade centre out at Benowa. We have Kool Kids early childhood training college, which trains not just Aussie kids but international students as well to specialise in early childhood development. That institution has recently moved into brand new premises at the top of Ferry Road hill. There is so much to be proud of, and I am very proud of the international sector in my electorate.