




Speech By
Shane King

MEMBER FOR KURWONGBAH

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PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENT

Kurwongbah Electorate, Schools

 **Mr KING** (Kurwongbah—ALP) (2.52 pm): I also have some positive news about education. Today I rise to sing the praises of schools across the Kurwongbah electorate and to thank all my local principals, school staff and P&C executives for the work that they do. Around six weeks ago I hosted two round tables—one for local school principals and another for P&C and P&F representatives. I want to thank Minister Grace for coming along to the principals' day. I have had outstanding feedback and I will put my hand up now to say that I am hoping the minister can come back next year for round 2.

I know our principals appreciated hearing firsthand about our Equity and Excellence strategy, which is a new vision for Queensland education to ensure every child has the opportunity to realise their full potential. We made the most of our chance to tell the minister about the biggest challenges schools are facing right now. The principals were happy to talk about support levels for students with high needs, staffing challenges, teacher safety, the cost of improving or expanding school facilities, the availability of tradies because of COVID, and car parking and road safety around schools, which is always a common theme. I also asked each principal to borrow from Lawnton State School's theme of 'Dream big' and tell us what they most wanted for their school community. The answers ranged from new facilities and classroom upgrades to partnerships with health support services, having kindies in schools and access to more data such as the reasons for student absence and its impact on learning.

We had four showcase award-winning schools in the room. A big congratulations goes to Burpengary State School—

Mr Whiting: Hear, hear!

Mr KING: I know the member for Bancroft particularly loves Burpengary State School—Jinibara State School, Narangba Valley State School and Lawnton State School. Ten out of the 13 schools across my electorate were represented by their principals and/or deputy principals on the day. Thanks to everyone who came along.

Parent representatives described a different set of challenges during our P&C and P&F round table, with availability of volunteers being the biggest issue in just about every school. I say to anyone who wants to get involved in a P&C or P&F to please volunteer some time. If you have a blue card then help out. It helps all of our kids' education. Other issues they talked about included the struggle to keep prices down, cultural changes and negativity on Facebook pages, which was a big issue for P&Cs and P&Fs. I am a big believer in the power of collaboration and it was awesome to hear parent representatives sharing their stories of what is or is not working for them in the way of uniform suppliers, tuckshop facilities and volunteer recruitment strategies. Early next year we are hoping to put together a 'come and try' day to encourage more parents, grandparents and citizens to get involved at school.

I am so proud of my local schools. I thank the Minister for Tourism, Innovation and Sport for recently coming to Burpengary State Secondary College to talk about inclusivity in sport. Last week, the Treasurer and I went to Narangba Valley State High School to look at TAFE training within schools. I look forward to inviting more ministers to Kurwongbah schools next year.