




Speech By
Jimmy Sullivan

MEMBER FOR STAFFORD

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ADJOURNMENT

Stafford Electorate, School Graduations

 **Mr SULLIVAN** (Stafford—ALP) (7.16 pm): It is an exciting time of year for year 12 students. I would like to say a big congratulations and best wishes to all those graduating this week. I have been to all of my schools for speech nights, academic awards, graduations and vale ceremonies—with a couple more to come this week. I want to say a particular thank you to my team—Dana, Darren and Artie—for making sure that, despite my presence here in parliament, I was represented at some this week and for providing the graduation packs for the year 12 students. It is a really important time of year for them and an important time in their lives.

I particularly want to give a shout-out to the school captains of the high schools that I have worked with over the last 12 months. I love seeing their contribution to their schools. I thank them for their contribution to the school and to the community more broadly. I love seeing the growth in them over the year. It is really rewarding seeing them walk out of the school with such pride. I give a particular shout-out to: at Wavell High, Madi, Louis, Eamon, Charlie-Rose and Jaeden, the SRC captain; at Mount A, Erin and Lizzie; at Padua, Dom and Will; at Craigslea, Zane, Mikiah, Morgan and Nick; and at Everton Park—I did get there on Monday night for their speech night—Ellen and Dan. All of them in their own way created their own identity throughout the year and I think our community is better for their contribution.

With some self-indulgence—I have said this privately and I will say it publicly—education was absolutely a motivation for getting into public life. The next thing was not a motivation but it is an added bonus that I have realised in public life—that is, the ability to embarrass your children. Our household is one of those households with a year 12 graduating student this year, so congratulations to Olivia for her hard work. I wish her all the best. It also means I am one of those parents who will be fretful for the next week with the onset of schoolies. Minister Enoch has assured me that there is nothing to worry about and it is going to be safe. I know that there are a few of us on this side of the House and I express empathy with those on the other side if they are in the same boat. Joking aside, we are very proud of them.

I wish the best of luck to all graduating students across Queensland, particularly from my local schools in Stafford. We wish you the best for the years to come. I acknowledge the partnership it takes to deliver that—the departmental staff, the teachers, the school principals and leaders and the support staff—as well as, of course, the partnership with parents and families to make that happen, when you think back on the number of school uniforms washed, lunches made and school drop-offs and pick-ups done over those 13 years. Congratulations to everyone involved.