




Speech By
Corrine McMillan

MEMBER FOR MANSFIELD

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ADJOURNMENT

Mansfield Electorate, Education

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (7.22 pm): The Mansfield electorate is a hub of educational excellence, attracting families from diverse backgrounds to move to my electorate in search of superior educational opportunities. This flourishing environment directly reflects the values and investment by the Queensland Labor government.

As a former principal and still a registered teacher, I am deeply committed to ensuring every child in the Mansfield electorate receives the quality education they deserve. It angers me to reflect on the previous LNP's government's failure to prioritise education and, therefore, the children of our community. Under the LNP's watch, vital resources were withheld and teacher numbers were declining in growing schools. The closure of Nyanda State High School and Old Yarranlea State School in my electorate and the ill-conceived attempt to auction Fortitude Valley State School to the highest bidders exemplify the LNP's disregard for education. The proposed slashing of 650 teachers over a period of four years and threats to prioritise the cleaning workforce, place teachers on performance pay and principals on contracts was a misguided attempt to offset the LNP's staggering \$24 billion in unfunded election commitments.

In stark contrast, the Queensland Labor government has consistently demonstrated its commitment to education. Over the past four years we have employed 1,000 teachers annually and recognising a projected growth in enrolments by at least 8,000 students every year until 2026, we have hired 6,000 new teachers and over 1,500 teacher aides since 2015. While the LNP's overzealous primary focus is always on rapidly achieving a budget surplus, it is crucial to strike a balance between fiscal responsibility, elevating educational standards to compete globally and delivering the services that our communities need and deserve.

I live in the Mansfield electorate; I know firsthand what our community values. Allow me to demonstrate to those opposite what understanding a community looks like: \$16.2 million for a new sports hall at Rochedale high; more than \$11 million to rebuild Upper Mount Gravatt State School after the fire and a safety fence; more than \$400 million invested in Mansfield State High School since 2017; more than \$30 million on new buildings at Mansfield State School; and more than \$30 million for Wishart State School since I was elected in 2017 for new learning spaces, refurbishment and additional classrooms. Queensland school students, their families and education staff deserve nothing but the best. I will continue to prioritise the education of our children and to ensure every child in my community has the opportunity to thrive and reach their full potential.