




Speech By
Corrine McMillan

MEMBER FOR MANSFIELD

Record of Proceedings, 7 March 2024

MOTION

Palaszczuk, Hon. A

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (3.51 pm): I am honoured to rise to contribute to the motion moved by the Premier. It was during my time as principal of Glenala State High School that I first met the former member for Inala. From the moment we met, I admired her ability to lead a complex community with grace, dignity and integrity. She was one of the community. She saw the good in its people and she took every avenue available to her to improve people's lives.

The former premier and I shared two things: an intolerance for prejudice against the community and a crusade against low expectations—or, as former president Bush described, the soft bigotry of low expectations. Low expectations allow people in positions of power and privilege to be comfortable with keeping children, families and communities in poverty. High expectations set the challenges that nurture hope and inspire confidence. It is hard to turn a ship against the current of low expectations, but it can be done. There is evidence of many examples in the Inala community where the former premier nurtured hope and inspired confidence.

Many Glenala students live in postcodes that are identified as some of the most disadvantaged in the country. Abhorrently, in January 2011 the popular press chose to single out Glenala as the fifth worst attending school in Queensland, and in 2012 it was flagged for potential closure. Annastacia fought tirelessly to prevent the closure of this school. By the end of 2012, Glenala was recognised as one of the most improved schools in the country. It is now a bustling and thriving school of more than 1,000 students. It is a community of immense pride and hope and one that the former premier continues to be proud of.

So many moments in life irrevocably change a person. The tragic Logan house fire was one such moment. During that time the former premier led her community with dignity and hope. Inala people will never forget her, Inala women and girls will never forget her, and Queensland will not forget her. Thank you, Annastacia.