



Speech By
Laura Gerber


MEMBER FOR CURRUMBIN

Record of Proceedings, 1 May 2024

HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Report, Motion to Take Note

Resumed from 17 April (see p. 1079), on motion of Mr Harper—

 **Mrs GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (2.00 pm), continuing: I will pick up where I left off. I was talking about the wonderful work of Elanora State High School with their program that has pretty much turned around the number of students who are vaping in their high school.

Following the implementation of the program in 2023, there were no suspensions for vaping recorded and 16 students were involved in the intensive educational program preventing vaping in their high school. So far this year there has only been one recorded suspension for vaping. No students have been required to divert to the intensive educational program, thanks to the work that the principal Rochelle Lewis and the dedicated teachers at Elanora State High School have been doing to educate children on the harms of vaping and to ensure they are not vaping in their school community.

The lowered prevalence of vaping and the measured approach has resulted in not only minimising the harm vaping does to children within Elanora State High School but also a reduction in damage to school facilities. The lowered maintenance costs have allowed the school to use funding to better support the children with their education and their futures.

It is evident that this model is working and that Elanora State High School is leading the way when it comes to preventing vaping within our schools. They are turning young lives around. They are turning young lives away from vaping. They are a prime example of the positive outcomes that can be achieved when schools are allowed to come up with innovative ways of dealing with issues in their own school community. I am so proud to support Elanora State High School with their vaping program and to support the principal, Rochelle Lewis, and all of the fantastic teachers who are so dedicated to their students' health, wellbeing and education.

(Time expired)