




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR MOUNT OMMANEY

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PRIVATE MEMBER STATEMENT

State Schools, Teachers

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (2.25 pm): A few weeks ago I had the honour of marching with a number of my colleagues alongside thousands of state school teachers. The feeling on the day was that there was a groundswell of community support for our hardworking teachers. It was inspiring to be part of a movement like that where you felt that there was a strong sense of support from all corners of the community. Teachers were talking about it when they were catching public transport into the rally that day. They were all so buoyed by the support they received from all sectors of the community. That sentiment I felt here in Brisbane was seen right around the state where there were events: in Cairns, Townsville, the Gold Coast, Mackay and countless more locations.

At estimates hearings the minister said that about 13 per cent of parents sent their children to school on the day of the strike. When one considers the significant logistical challenge that would have posed for many Queensland households, that is a significant display of support from Queensland parents who heeded the call from the QTU to keep their children home. Parents went out of their way to make alternative arrangements so they could show their support for our Queensland teachers. I want to take a moment to thank the parents for their show of support in keeping their children home that day if they could.

Queensland parents get it. They understand that our Queensland state school teachers have five key asks and they back them. They want the LNP government to deliver what they promised to our teachers. Our teachers have a total of five interest areas that they are seeking to resolve in their negotiations, and I want to name them in the House today as it appears the minister struggled to do so in estimates: remuneration that recognises the professional qualification of members; attracting and retaining teachers and school leaders; implementing the comprehensive review of school resourcing; supporting teachers and school leaders as professionals; and fair and safe workplaces.

Our hardworking teachers need safe working conditions because occupational violence is at an all-time high. They are facing violence in their workplace on an unprecedented scale. Members of the union tell me that they want the nation-leading wages they were promised before the election, not the standard offer they have been given post election. You cannot promise the deluxe version and then offer them up a standard model post-election. It is no wonder that teachers are unhappy. Our teachers wear many hats: they are educators, event planners, interior designers and creative directors. They are confidants for children who need them; they may be the only trusted adult. We need to back our teachers.