




Speech By
Mark Boothman

MEMBER FOR ALBERT

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APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL

Education and Innovation Committee, Report

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Albert—LNP) (9.25 pm): I rise to speak to the Appropriation Bill 2014 and the Education and Innovation Committee report. Firstly, I would thank the committee staff—Bernice Watson, the research director; Melissa Salisbury, the principal research officer; Carolyn Heffernan, the executive assistant—the committee chair, Rosemary Menkens, and my fellow committee members, Michael Latter, Neil Symes, Steve Bennett, Ray Hopper and Yvette D'Ath. Most importantly, I would like to thank the ministers—the Hon. John-Paul Langbroek and the Hon. Ian Walker—for their comprehensive answers and foresight in taking their departments from strength to strength.

Over the last two years this government has undertaken a revolution in education to meet the challenges of the 21st century through the Great Teachers = Great Results, the Independent Public Schools initiative and the Great Results Guarantee. The 2014-15 budget has seen a seven per cent increase in the education budget to a total of \$11.8 billion, which further highlights this government's focus on the importance of education. In this budget the government has committed to an extra 2,250 extra prep teacher aide hours. This means an additional 20.8 hours per week for Mount Warren Park State School, 39.4 extra hours for Windaroo State School and 25.4 extra hours at the Upper Coomera State College just to name a few. This will give the early years of education an additional boost and our children the best possible start.

I have personally had parents and teachers expressing their delight at these additional hours. This is certainly most welcomed by our school communities. On top of these additional hours the government has funded an additional 761 new teachers and teacher aide positions. The Great Results Guarantee funding has also been very warmly welcomed at my local schools. Some \$131 million went to our schools to boost student literacy and numeracy outcomes. The Albert electorate received its lion's share of \$2.1 million of this crucial funding. This funding empowers our school leaders, our principals and their teaching staff with the support of our P&C communities to allocate much needed funds which are not tied up in bureaucracy, making it possible to spend the money where it is most needed—on our children's education.

A couple of months ago at one of my local schools a parent informed me how important this funding is and how much of a real difference it is making for her son. Her son has a renewed vigour when it comes to education. He comes home and speaks about the reading he has done at school. He is even practising with his parents. He is showing his new-found skills which he is proud of it, and this should be nurtured. These types of stories are across-the-board.

This funding allows the continuation of the fantastic work undertaken by our local principals such as Colin Torr, Phillip Carlton, Martine Gill and Andrew Cummings, just to name a couple. It

empowers them to make a real difference and spend the money where it is desperately needed. The maintenance backlog funding has also made a massive difference to our local schools. It has reinvigorised them. A fresh coat of paint is bringing back a whole new pride to our local schools.

I would like to say in the last few seconds I have got left that it is certainly a credit to the Minister for Science, Ian Walker, that although his target was to have 100 new online services by the end of this year he has already got 132 new services online as part of this e-government. That is an absolutely fantastic effort. Well done to the ministers. That is great work.