



Speech By
Mark Robinson

MEMBER FOR CLEVELAND

Record of Proceedings, 22 May 2014

MEMBER'S STATEMENTS

Chappy Week

 **Dr ROBINSON** (Cleveland—LNP) (3.43 pm): I rise to highlight in the parliament that this week is Chappy Week and to acknowledge the great work that chaplains do in the schools of the Cleveland electorate. This week, 18 to 25 May, is Chappy Week. Chappy Week is an opportunity for us as a community to thank and acknowledge our chaplains for the hard work that they do in our schools. Chappy Week is an awareness week run by Scripture Union Queensland. The role of chaplains in our schools should never be undervalued. Chaplains provide support, pastoral care and assistance to young people and at-risk children who are often most in need. In short, chaplains are helping professionals who are at the front line of providing assistance to young people.

I am proud of the fact that it was a conservative government, the Howard Liberal National government, that introduced this visionary and caring program. Again we see that compassionate conservatives often lead the way when it comes to education reforms and caring for our children and families. The good work of chappies is highly valued by principals, teachers, staff, parents and students. The huge majority of Queenslanders believe that chappies are good for their children and worth the investment of taxpayer funds by governments. Chappies are viewed positively by 97 per cent of all principals, both non-religious and religious. Only an extremely small proportion of people are ideologically opposed to chappies.

Last weekend I was invited to attend the commissioning service at Birkdale Baptist Church of our newest chaplain for Cleveland District State High School, Cleveland local Heather Decorso. It was uplifting to see the support that Heather received from her local congregation to go into our schools and make a positive change. Heather is one of many chaplains around Queensland who work from a community support base to make our schools a better place for our young people.

In my electorate of Cleveland we are lucky enough to have chappies in most primary and secondary schools. The overwhelming majority of schools in the Cleveland electorate have chosen to take on a chaplain to help support their school community. There is: Angela Wolferstan at Bayview State School and Thornlands State School; Neale Collier and Heather Decorso at Cleveland District State High School; Aaron Blyth at Cleveland State School; Tracey Hodge at Dunwich State School; Terry Keen at Ormiston State School; Carl Coertzen at Wellington Point State High School; Meash Proverbs at Wellington Point State School; Mike Shepherd at Redlands College; Chris Brown at Ormiston College; Father Frank Jones at Mary MacKillop school; and Ashley Warbroke at Star of the Sea Catholic Primary School. I am proud to be in a government that went to the last election with a commitment to allocate additional funding over four years for the Chaplaincy/Pastoral Care Funding Program. Again, the LNP government is delivering for all Queenslanders.