




Speech By
Jann Stuckey

MEMBER FOR CURRUMBIN

Record of Proceedings, 7 May 2015

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Currumbin Electorate, School Leaders; Anzac Day

 **Mrs STUCKEY** (Currumbin—LNP) (2.42 pm): The start of a new school year brings with it badging and leadership ceremonies where students are recognised by their teachers and their peers as school leaders of the future. In recent months I have been fortunate enough to attend a number of these at schools in Currumbin. Each year I am overwhelmed by the calibre of students elected to senior positions in their respective schools. The maturity and enthusiasm of our year 6 students as they now lead their schools—with year 7 having moved to high school—is a real credit to their teachers and their parents. Also worthy of acknowledgement are the respectful and moving Anzac ceremonies held by schools around the electorate. As I observe students reverently sitting in complete silence at these services, I feel proud to be an Australian, knowing the service and sacrifices made by so many that enabled us to enjoy our wonderful freedom will not be forgotten by younger generations. Emily Ireland was a successful recipient of the Premier's Anzac Prize, gaining the coveted opportunity to travel to Gallipoli for the centenary service. Each year I run an Anzac essay competition amongst local schools, with this year attracting an especially large number of entrants given the significance of the centenary. Standards are always high and the competition produces some exceptional speeches. Year 5 student Isayah Lewis from Elanora State School was selected to read his speech at the morning service at Currumbin RSL and delivered it superbly, touching all in attendance.

It would be remiss of me not to mention the Currumbin RSL and its week-long program of commemorative events leading up to Anzac Day, which included a photographic exhibition, mateship run and a symbolic sleep-out. These initiatives involve school students right through to our veteran community to raise funds to facilitate the opening of the first Soldier On facility in Queensland to be based in Currumbin. This is an extremely worthy endeavour, supporting returned soldiers back into our community following the psychological and physical traumas of war. Of course, the week culminated in the Currumbin dawn service held at Elephant Rock, the largest regional Anzac event in Queensland this year with well over 30,000 in attendance. Every year this service is an emotional and moving occasion and this year our soldiers were honoured by all ages in what can only be described as an unforgettably inspiring experience. Walking hand in hand with my husband amid throngs of silent walkers to the ceremony this year, I felt even more proud than ever to be an Aussie and prouder still of my dad, Eric Coleman, Royal Australian Air Force, World War II, who passed away two years ago this week. On behalf of residents, I wish to recognise and applaud the unflagging efforts of Currumbin RSL President Ron Workman OAM and CEO Anne Stovin and their team for what was a remarkable tribute to our fallen.