



Speech By  
**Joseph Kelly**


**MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES**

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**MATTER OF PUBLIC INTEREST**

**Greenslopes Electorate, Education**

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (12.31 pm): I have personally benefited greatly from a family that valued education and a society that ensured that educational opportunities were available to me. I am amazed at the array of opportunities that are available in our schools for students. The environmental group at Coorparoo State School are building an understanding of our natural environment and how each student can play a role in creating a sustainable society. The quality of the artwork on display at the Nursery Road Special School biannual art auction was astounding and results from the school's art extension program. Recently I was made aware of a biology assignment by a student at Cavendish Road State High School and was stunned that someone so young could have such a deep understanding of molecular biology—much more advanced than my own. Many of these available opportunities in science, maths, archaeology, music, drama, dance and legal studies just simply were not available when I went to school, which I can assure members was really not that long ago.

The Palaszczuk government knows that the educational opportunities that we create for young people will shape the society that we become. That is why I was so excited about the announcement of the recent Advancing education plan. This plan builds on important reforms such as a full-time prep year, kindy programs and day care centres and moving year 7 into high school. There are many exciting aspects of this plan—creating a confident start, connecting our schools globally through languages, valuing our teachers and educators, investing in schools and supporting student learning—but I want to focus on the schools of the future section of the plan.

I reiterate that I really did not go to school that long ago, but at that time robots and computers belonged to a world of science fiction. Orac of *Blake's 7* could run a spaceship, R2-D2 could interpret any language, *Kit* was a car that could tell Michael where to go, and who could forget Class M-3 Model B9, General Utility Non-Theorising Environmental Control Robot, who would regularly yell, 'Warning! Warning, Will Robinson!?' Those robots seemed to my young mind the stuff of fantasy, but I now live in a world where computers and robots do all of these things and are now in everyone's pockets. Robots can be built at home with parts printed on a 3D printer. Like many people my age, I love these technological advances, but please do not ask me to explain how they work. For students in the schools of the future, understanding coding and robotics will be essential. It is fantastic that the Premier and Minister Jones have grasped this and will make it a reality for students.

To assuage my curiosity, I decided to head to one of the schools in my local area to check out what is happening. When I went to school, pulling out a robot in class would have earned me some form of punishment, but not so for the students of Mount Gravatt State High School. The maths teachers, Ms Janke, Mr Drew and Mr Taylor-Woodlands, have worked with students to establish a robotics club. At the moment, this club has 27 keen members, with numbers down a bit whilst senior

students focus on final exams. The students of this club were so proud to demonstrate their handiwork. The young women and men showed me robots that could do things such as navigate along lines, pick up things, move things and sort out items for recycling. Robotics is not a solitary exercise; the students must work together as a team to build robots that can achieve these amazing things. The students start with a kit but also design and create parts using a 3D printer.

The students demonstrated their preparation for an upcoming competition that is sponsored by the Queensland University of Technology. These young women and men spoke passionately about robotics. Most said that they were keen to pursue further their studies into robotics at university, with most picking science, engineering, mathematics and robotics as their first choice. Mount Gravatt State High School recognised what the students were gaining from their involvement in the robotics club and have since incorporated this study into the curriculum, with robotics courses being offered as part of information and communication technology.

This was a really exciting visit for me, not just because I got to play with robots but because I was surrounded by young people who had a passionate interest that will benefit not just themselves but society as a whole. I am proud to be part of a government that is investing in the schools of the future. I am extremely saddened that the federal government is on course to cut billions of dollars in funding from our education system while at the same time racing to hike the GST, all done while those opposite are silent. To build the schools of the future, we must invest wisely and we must do it now.

The young people of Mount Gravatt State High School demonstrated that we had everything we need right here in our state to be global leaders in these fields. I want to thank the Premier and Minister Jones for their vision and I want to conclude by thanking the principal, Richard Usher, and the teachers who support the robotics club, but mostly I want to thank the members of the club for their passion. I wish them all the best in the QUT robotics competition on 21 November.