



Speech by

Andrew Cripps

MEMBER FOR HINCHINBROOK

Hansard Wednesday, 27 February 2008

READING RECOVERY PROGRAM

Mr CRIPPS (Hinchinbrook—NPA) (11.46 am): I am pleased today to present to the Queensland parliament a petition on behalf of the Victoria Plantation State School Parents and Citizens Association, comprising 51 letters from parents objecting to the decision by the state Labor government to axe the Reading Recovery Program. I now table the petition on their behalf.

Tabled paper: Non-conforming petition relating to the Reading Recovery Program.

Parents of students from Victoria Plantation State School are concerned that students identified as having significant reading and writing difficulties will not have access to intensive, individual daily lessons. The parents believe that it is unrealistic to expect teachers to take on the role of a Reading Recovery Program facilitator when they are already implementing an increasingly complex curriculum.

Parents of students from Victoria Plantation State School believe that they have witnessed the benefits of the Reading Recovery Program where students who were struggling with their reading have emerged with more confidence and are better able to work independently in the classroom. Victoria Plantation State School parents have also paid tribute to the dedicated local teachers, who have delivered the Reading Recovery Program for many years and have significant expertise in developing reading programs designed to meet individual needs of students with reading and writing difficulties.

During 2007, I made representations to the minister for education, Rod Welford, on behalf of Toobanna State School Parents and Citizens Association and the Halifax State School Parents and Citizens Association, following both school P&Cs approaching me expressing their strong opposition to the Reading Recovery Program being axed by the state Labor government.

It is not a coincidence that the majority of schools in my electorate that are expressing concerns about the loss of the Reading Recovery Program are smaller rural schools, where multilevel classrooms make it more difficult for classroom teachers to deliver the curriculum to students of different ages, and extra one-on-one contact can make a significant difference to the progress of individual students.