

UPPER SWAN PRIMARY SCHOOL — PRINCIPAL STEPHEN GREEN — RETIREMENT

Statement by Member for Swan Hills

MS J.J. SHAW (Swan Hills — Parliamentary Secretary) [12.51 pm]: On 21 July, Upper Swan Primary School principal, Stephen Green, will retire after nearly 40 years in public education. Stephen has been a classroom teacher, deputy principal and principal, including at Tambellup Primary, Bullsbrook College, Bassendean Primary, and finally at Upper Swan Primary, where I have been privileged to know him. Stephen is renowned for his knowledge of curriculum; teaching and learning principles and practice; the level of trust he places in his team; and for pioneering a leadership approach tailored to individual students and the school community. His leadership was recognised in Professor Bill Loudon’s 2015 publication *High performing primary schools: What do they have in common?*, describing Upper Swan Primary School as achieving excellence and as contradicting the trend towards lower variance teaching, not mandating textbooks, timetables and teaching methods.

I have seen Stephen’s remarkably strong rapport with kids. Every day, he goes out of his way to connect, making rhyming games, “Lewis the Truest”, “Mason will Ace-em”; pretending to steal lunches; encouraging playing in mud; involving the kids in practical jokes on their teachers; and, on hot valley days, getting out his Nerf water mega blaster.

Stephen is now taking time to spend with his family. We are all so very grateful for the remarkable contribution he has made to so many children and families across Swan Hills.