

**BLETCHLEY PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL**

*Statement by Member for Southern River*

**MR P. ABETZ (Southern River)** [4.11 pm]: Bletchley Park Primary School opened its doors in the rapidly developing suburb of Southern River at the beginning of the 2008 school year. The staff and principal did not have access to their school until four days before the school term started. Under the strong leadership of the principal, Mr Cris Partington, supported by the two deputies, Sue Bachman and Josie Millwood, the staff worked without a break for 25 days to get everything in place while teaching the 192 students enrolled at the school. During the year another 69 students enrolled at the school as their families moved into the area. The staff handled this influx lovingly and professionally, thus facilitating the harmonious integration of the new students into the school community. The happy, positive atmosphere in the school and among the students, who come from more than 10 ethnic backgrounds, is supported by a strong focus on teaching eight values—responsibility, tolerance, cooperation, perseverance, kindness, courage, honesty and respect. These values permeate the whole school community and create an environment in which children feel at home and are able to work well. I congratulate Michelle Murazvu, who arrived in Australia from Zimbabwe just four years ago, for her hard work in achieving dux of year 7. A card given to the principal this morning by the parents of an autistic boy at the school states —

Thankyou for all your support & help that made ... first year such a memorable one — it exceeded all our expectations. We are so grateful that ... has the opportunity to attend such a great school — not only in terms of the teaching but the fantastic community you have created —

I pay tribute to the hard-working staff of Bletchley Park Primary School and have great pleasure in commending them to this Parliament for their unstinting service to our community.