

SACRED HEART PRIMARY SCHOOL — GOOMALLING

Statement

HON MATT BENSON-LIDHOLM (Agricultural) [10.07 pm]: On Friday, 28 March, I had the pleasure of representing Western Australian senator, Chris Evans, at the official opening of the Sacred Heart Primary School building extensions in Goomalling. The federal government funded the school extensions to the tune of \$925 000 through its National School Pride and Primary Schools for the 21st Century projects.

A number of important visitors were on hand to witness the handover of two buildings. Those present included Ms Mary Retel, deputy director of the Catholic Education Office; Councillor John Bird, the Goomalling shire president; past and present parish priests, Father Richard Rutaszkas and Father Noel Latt; Mr Glen Quartermaine, school board chairman; and builders Ausco, and Gibbs and Son. I would also like to mention the staff, the students and, in particular, the head boy, Brady Even, and head girl, Chloe Williams, who were the MCs on the day. They did an excellent job. I would also like to mention parents, local community members and the many visitors.

The two new buildings are state-of-the-art structures and will no doubt prove to be a significant boost to the already high quality of education at Sacred Heart Primary School. I spoke to staff and students at the conclusion of the formal ceremony. All were excited at the prospect of teaching and learning in such excellent surroundings as provided by these new buildings.

The Goomalling community has already benefited from the building project with the involvement of local builders, employees and building supplies companies. Money spent and jobs guaranteed have provided much confidence to the local community, particularly given the current drought conditions. The building program was driven by the vision and commitment of school principal Daine Burnett and immediate past school board chairman Darren West. Without their considerable efforts, it is doubtful the new classrooms would have eventuated. The enthusiasm of the principal even saw him take on the role of architect, with the designs reflecting the specific needs of the school's teaching and learning programs. In the principal's address, Daine Burnett paid particular attention to the engagement of parents during the building program, suggesting, "The one key aspect, I believe, from this whole building process has been the fact that our school community has no doubt become stronger in every form imaginable because of this process. This is a positive that I am sure we are all proud of."

I wish all staff, students and parents involved at Sacred Heart Primary School, Goomalling, every success in delivering the best possible outcomes for the local school community. I particularly note the great success of the federal government's Building the Education Revolution program not only in Goomalling but also across the continent.