

**BLETCHLEY PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL — CRIS PARTINGTON**

*Statement by Member for Southern River*

**MR P. ABETZ (Southern River)** [12.54 pm]: I well remember the official opening of Bletchley Park Primary School, where I met the founding principal, Mr Cris Partington. Starting with fewer than 200 students and fewer than 10 year 7 students graduating that first year, the school has flourished under Cris's competent and inspiring leadership, aided by very competent and committed staff. Now with over 1 000 students, it is still the school of choice in my area. Yes; it has staggered lunch and play times to prevent congestion on the playground. These things are just part of the can-do attitude of Cris and his team. Cris provided the leadership for the school to be part of the first group of independent public schools, and I have served on the board from almost the very beginning. I have therefore seen firsthand how a competent principal, aided by a committed board and staff, can use the flexibility afforded by IP schools to the educational advantage of the students. Cris's very competent leadership has not gone unnoticed. The director of the school innovation and reform unit offered him a position on the principal professional support team for the remainder of this year with a possible extension into next year. This team works with beginning and newly appointed principals in both permanent and acting positions. The Bletchley Park Primary School community will lose our wonderful principal today for at least the rest of the year, but possibly forever, and deputy Bec Burns will take over for the rest of the year. Cris is leaving the school in good hands with a great leadership team, wonderful curriculum leaders and an amazing staff.

We hope you come back, Cris, but if not, I am sure that as you provide to other principals, their schools will benefit from your input.