

**ELLEN STIRLING PRIMARY SCHOOL FATHERING PROJECT**

*Statement by Member for Swan Hills*

**MR F.A. ALBAN (Swan Hills)** [12.57 pm]: We live in a busy and complex world. Our lives are dictated by our work commitments, which in turn are directly linked to our financial commitments. Home mortgages or rents, together with the daily costs of raising a family, are generational burdens that all parents have to bear. This is particularly true in Ellenbrook, where a great proportion of our dads are fly in, fly out workers, which is a more recent phenomenon. Dads are away a lot and considerable pressure is placed on this modern family lifestyle, especially for the dads. Enter Matt Pinkard, associate principal of Ellen Stirling Primary School, with a unique initiative, the Ellen Stirling Primary School fathering project.

I attended the project's dads-and-kids-only event held at Bunnings Ellenbrook on 1 June 2016. Dads and kids were given the opportunity to design and build their very own jellybean dispenser, which they could take home with them. A sausage sizzle was provided. Principal Dean Goldspink, a team of his schoolteachers, and the dads' committee provided support for this great evening initiative, which deserves to be promoted throughout other schools—no cooking for mum for one night and no rush to get home for dinner! The event was a raging success with a huge amount of positive feedback. Congratulations to this school for extending its educational support by supporting the parents and students in their family life. This is a glowing example of a modern adaption of education within our community environment. What commitment by our teachers!

*Sitting suspended from 1.00 to 2.00 pm*