

**ELLENBROOK SECONDARY COLLEGE**

*Statement*

**HON LORNA HARPER (East Metropolitan)** [5.35 pm]: Firstly, I say again publicly that, comrade, as a feminist, I stand here as a proud supporter of the transgender community. I stand in solidarity as an ally and a friend, and we need to keep continuing this conversation.

Comrades, last Friday, I had a wonderful morning out at Ellenbrook Central shopping centre with a whole bunch of children from a culturally and linguistically diverse background from Ellenbrook Secondary College. Their teacher, Janelle, came up with an idea. These children were from year 7 up to year 12, and, yes, the majority of them were taller than me, even the year 7s, but they were nice to me, whereas my colleagues here make comments about my height. Because these children have a culturally and linguistically diverse background, a lot of them have refugee status, and some of their parents have left war-torn countries. They have actually been through quite a lot in their life. Some of the older members of our community are not used to dealing with youths from such a diverse background, so the idea was that the children would go out and do random acts of kindness. Hon Donna Faragher spoke about children doing random acts of kindness. I was not there on my own; we teamed up with Jessica Shaw, the member for Swan Hills, and also Hon Ayor Makur Chuot joined us, without the baby—we told her off for that, but she was there as well. Coles donated a whole bunch of Easter eggs and flowers, we went round with the children and they handed flowers and Easter eggs out to people randomly in the shopping centre. The conversations we had with some of those people afterwards were amazing. One woman said that she was having such a bad day, and then she saw a six-foot tall young man with his cap to the side calling everybody “bro” and “cuz” and things like that, but he was so respectful. He handed her the flowers and said that he hoped she had a really good day. She said, “He’s just lit up my life and he’s just made my day.” Talking to her, I said that we need to remember that those young children need that positivity in their life.

Thank you to the students at Ellenbrook Secondary College. I say to those students: keep working hard. To that young man, I say: party less, study more. He knows what I am talking about. I am looking forward to the next time, as is Jessica Shaw and Hon Ayor Makur Chuot, and hopefully we will be able to get Tania Lawrence to come along as well out to Ellenbrook to join them again for more random acts of kindness.