



## THE PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA - HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

### ADJOURNMENT SPEECH – SCHOOL CHAPLAINCY

As a parliamentary host I had the opportunity of promoting and supporting a briefing and information session on school chaplaincy in Tasmania. I have been a strong supporter of school chaplaincy since it began, back in the Howard era, about 2005, 2006. It was when I was in the Senate. John Howard kicked it off. It has been supported since then.

Today was a wonderful day to promote school chaplaincy in Tasmania. It was organised by Scripture Union Tasmania. I do have an interest here as my wife is chair of Scripture Union Tasmania and I am a former council member of Scripture Union Tasmania. We were joined by a range of other organisations and two other key providers and employers of school chaplains in Tasmania, including Devonport Chaplaincy. Andrew Hillier, was there and Hobart City Mission, John Studley. It was organised by Ruth Pinkerton, the state director of SU Tasmania with here fine team and staff members. We were joined by many school chaplains, particularly from southern Tasmania and also a number of principals and supporters of the school chaplaincy service. I was representing the Deputy Premier and Minister for Education and Training. I passed on his apologies and best wishes to those that were involved.

We have 89 state schools with chaplains. The Catholic and independent schools around Tasmania also obtained some of that funding and support. They obtain community support with extra funding and support to promote and support the service.

Congratulations to all the chaplains in Tasmania for the wonderful work they do. I know many of them. I know others in this place of all colours and persuasions would know school chaplains in their electorate. They would know the schools that benefit from them. They provide wonderful support, particularly for students and families, in times of need or crisis. We heard a couple of those examples today. I teared up at one occasion during the lunch briefing. It was a wonderful message of support and care for somebody in need at a time of crisis.

They assist with breakfast clubs, working to help students to be more positive about being at school, developing leadership and support programs, participating in school activities such as sports camps and gardens and those sorts of things, supporting families in their local community. I wanted to pay a tribute to them and thank Scripture Union Tasmania for helping organise the event and to compliment to the wonderful school chaplains all around Tasmania.