5th March 2015

Ms Miriam McDonald
Principal
Taminmin College
PO Box 21
HUMPTY DOO NT 0836

Dear Miriam,

During the last sittings of Parliament, I had the opportunity to talk in the adjournment about people and issues in my electorate or generally. While the time provided is not long, it is sufficient time to place on the public record the good work and activities of schools in my electorate. I took the opportunity to speak on Taminmin College and I have attached a copy of what I said.

Your name and the name of the College are now permanently on the public record and appropriately so given the excellent work you do and the good standards passed onto students and the school community generally.

I thank you for continuing to make the rural school community a good place and providing a learning path for young people and promoting a positive lifestyle for all involved with the school.

Yours sincerely

[Signature]

Hon Kezia Purick MLA
Speaker and Member for Goyder
Ms PURICK (Goyder): I also inform the House of some wonderful achievements within my electorate. Taminmin College achieved 100% NT CET completion rate from eligible Year 12 students in 2014, with many students reaching their goals for higher education through their ATAR scores. This reflects enormous commitment and hard work from students, teachers and the leadership team, and is an achievement to be proud of. Taminmin College achieved also an 85% VET certificate completion rate. This is a great result because it reflects that 11 Year 11 students obtained apprenticeships throughout the year. In this area, the school does not want 100% completion rate. The delivery of high-quality training that makes students work ready is being achieved and is valued by employers.

There were 205 completed qualifications Certificate I, II and III across a range of courses including Agrifood Operations, Rural Operations, Agriculture, Automotive, Business, Construction, Engineering, Racing (Stable Hand), Resources and Infrastructure Operations, Hospitality and Kitchen Operations. These VET qualifications not only provide real life job skills but also contribute to the student’s NT CET. The 100% completion rate is directly attributable to the delivery of programs offered. There is an increasing demand in this area and further programs in electrotechnology and retail are the next focus for the college.

Taminmin students were sixth in the National Chemistry Titration competitions held in Term 4 of 2014. This was an outstanding achievement, as 1500 teams compete in the first phase of this event.

At the Board of Studies Student Awards 2014 ceremony at Parliament House on 13 February, Emma Kellaway was presented with the Karmi Sceney Indigenous Excellence and Leadership Award. Emma was a high-achieving student and wonderful role model as School Captain during the 2014 year. Emma was presented also with the NT Indigenous Education Council Northern Region Indigenous NT CET with VET Award.

Georgia Lowery was presented with the NT Board of Studies Year 11 Vocational Education and Training in Schools Award. Georgia is an exceptional student and completed her Certificate III in Agriculture at the highest standard, and was a role model to her peers with her skills and commitment to her training. Georgia is now studying agriculture at college in Longreach.

Danielle Hazelton from Taminmin College was awarded the NT Secondary Teacher of the Year and the Palmerston Rural Secondary Teacher of the Year for 2014. I have spoken about Danielle before. Dani is a passionate educator and a well-respected senior teacher who has made a difference to students’ educational outcomes through her leadership. She was also a star of the inaugural production of the newly formed Rural Amateur Theatre Society, RATS, called *Harem Scarem*. My good colleague, the member for Nelson, also played a starring role in this production.
Taminmin College has a commitment to use teaching methods that accelerate students' literacy learning, and in 2014 developed a partnership with Griffith University to facilitate this. Through a carefully managed reprioritisation of projects and reassociation of funds, the council was able to approve a major funding commitment over two years to commence the Accelerated Literacy Learning (ALL) Program in Term 3. This is an evidenced-based program producing great improvements in literacy.

The delay to other projects has already been justified as the results are exciting already. For example, those Year 9 students in June 2014 who were up to two years behind the national average after standardised testing are now in Year 10, and on average are now only a few months behind the national average. This is a great achievement, but literacy improvements are not just the domain of schools. Parents also can contribute to even greater improvements by ensuring there is reading material available for students and assisting them with their reading.

The council regularly communicates with its community to convey this expectation. The college successfully launched the school-wide Positive Behaviour Support program during 2014 and has made a commitment to using the school values of REACH, R=Respect, E=Effort towards excellence, A=Achieve your goals, C=Caring community, H=Honesty to unpack expected behaviour across the school.

This resulted in students being awarded gold, silver and bronze certificates of good standing at the end of Semester 2, giving them a range of privileges.

The outlook for 2015 for Taminmin College is exciting and positive. Perhaps in response to the school's achievements, programs and pathways which allow every student the opportunity to achieve success, enrolments have again increased in 2015, most notably in Year 10, requiring the creation of a complete new class.

The school has a great record in responding to the educational needs of its community, and as such has introduced some new initiatives in 2015 to complement existing programs. Taminmin College has the Leading Learners program which supports, extends and challenges the academically gifted students to develop high-order thinking and problem solving in order to reach their academic potential. The school has now introduced an Aspire class to target those students who are not necessarily at the Leading Learner academic level, but who have a commitment to learning a sound work ethic and who possess the required behaviours. This has been a highly sought after class by students.

Planning is currently under way to introduce a young scholars program in Term 2. This program will provide enriched opportunities for academically motivated students in Year 5 and 6 from Taminmin College's public feeder schools, being Bees Creek, Girraween, Howard Springs, Humpty Doo, Berry Springs and Middle Point. Young scholars will participate in a number of challenging activities along with other like-minded students. Activities will cover a range of subject areas including science, maths, English, SOCE, IT, performing and visual arts, health and PE and technologies. Successful students will gain automatic entry into Taminmin's Leading Learner program in Year 7, which leads on to the Centre of Excellence in Year 10. It is planned that young scholars will attend Taminmin for one full day during term.

Taminmin Council will soon also begin consultation with the rural community in the development of a master plan to support informed decision-making about future work and how to cater for anticipated growth in the rural area. The rural area is, indeed, full of exciting opportunities and potential, and Taminmin College is very much part of the rural area being at the hub in Humpty Doo.

My congratulations to all the students and teachers who have achieved these wonderful results. I compliment the principal, Miriam McDonald and the council chairman, Beverly Ratahi, for driving the interests of all the students, teachers and families associated with Taminmin College. Congratulations.