



## David Littleproud MP

Federal Member for Maranoa

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# Media Statement

February 5, 2019

### **Supporting People Experiencing Learning Differences (Speld) will celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in Warwick on Wednesday, February 6.**

Students and adult learners stretched across Maranoa have been supported, guided and encouraged to reach their academic best through a series of services offered by Speld for the past 50 years.

Reflecting on the not-for-profit's accomplishments Maranoa MP David Littleproud said Speld remains as important today as it did at its inception in 1969.

"Growing up in Chinchilla, I attended the local state and high school, before finishing my senior years at Toowoomba Grammar School," Mr Littleproud said.

"I currently have two boys attending school here in Warwick. Remembering my own time in the classroom, as well as witnessing my children's current academic experiences, I see vast changes in the learning process - as well as the trends and challenges associated with rural education."

Speld supports students, families and educators with assessments, specialist tutoring, assistive technology advice, professional development workshops, publications and ongoing consultations.

"There is no doubt in my mind that Speld has greatly influenced educational outcomes for students and adults with learning differences across Maranoa; fostering a solid path for rural students to reach their full potential and contribute their authentic worth in the classroom, their home, workplace and community."

"Speld's focus on engagement in rural and remote areas means that support networks, information and guidance are made all the more accessible. Distance does not have to be a tyranny. Educators and families can make decisions with clarity about what best meets their students' learning requirements."

The statistics are telling of Speld's worth and service to rural communities. In 2018 Speld's small team answered 24,500 requests for learning support; up from 772 enquiries in 2003.

"They are an essential resource, and one that has a positive effect on learning across Maranoa and Queensland."

“I congratulate Speld Queensland for their 50 years of passion, perseverance and dedicated service; providing informative and holistic pathways for students with learning differences to reach their personal best.”

For more information, visit <https://www.speld.org.au/>.

#### Event Details

Time: Wednesday, February 6, 2019 at 5:00pm

Location: Warwick Town Hall, 64 Fitzroy Street, Warwick

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