



PARLIAMENT OF NEW SOUTH WALES  
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

**FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT**

**Community Recognition Statement**

14 October 2021

**JESMOND PUBLIC SCHOOL**

**Ms SONIA HORNER ( Wallsend ) :**

The news that the Taliban were recapturing Kabul in Afghanistan was devastating to many, including the many families whose students attend Jesmond Public School.

Jesmond Public School's 203 students are from more than 30 countries and 67% have English as a second language. Of those 203 students, 55 are from more than 30 Afghani families.

Although safe in Australia, these families still have family and friends in Afghanistan who they are very concerned about.

Staff felt helpless at the news coming out of Kabul and wanted to spread some kindness and let families know that they were thinking of them, so they and the community rallied together and provided them with care packages. The packages included remote learning essentials such as notebooks, cards, pencils, chalk, playdough and textas, as well as crocheted hearts, handmade bookmarks, chocolates and tea.

The School is the hub of the community and families are very trusting of the staff and discuss things that are happening in the community, not just based around education.

Thank you to the staff and community of Jesmond Public School for acknowledging the distress of these families and providing them with such kindness.