



Speech by

**Hon. ANNA BLIGH**

**MEMBER FOR SOUTH BRISBANE**

---

Hansard 29 November 2001

### **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

#### **Teachers**

**Hon. A. M. BLIGH** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Minister for Education) (9.47 a.m.), by leave: One of this government's most important Smart State initiatives is delivering on our election commitment to provide an additional 800 teachers over four years. That is 800 teachers over and above normal growth. In delivering these teachers, the government is determined to allocate them where they will make a difference—in those schools and parts of the state that most need targeted assistance. This is a decisive shift away from enrolment-driven allocations to one where identified local needs are pre-eminent. As part of the government's commitment, teachers will be allocated on educational need rather than student numbers.

Education Queensland has worked collaboratively with the Queensland Teachers Union to develop an allocation process for these new teachers. Strategic staffing panels involving local area representatives will allocate these teachers to specific schools within the identified areas of need. The panels are expected to meet before the end of the year and will also consider submissions from schools in the identified areas.

Earlier this year, 147 extra teachers were deployed in school classrooms in every district of the state to support students with disabilities. These were the first extra teachers to be deployed under the Beattie government's \$132 million, four-year package to improve educational outcomes for all students.

The next instalment of this initiative will see a further 135 extra teachers deployed to help further reduce class sizes and improve educational outcomes. The extra teachers will be used across Queensland in parts of the state that most need targeted additional support. In 2002, 135 extra teachers will be deployed in the following way: 20 will be allocated to the districts of Torres Strait Island, Cairns and Cape and Tablelands-Johnstone; 25 will be allocated to the districts of Emerald, Gladstone and Rockhampton; 33 will be allocated to the districts of Murrumbidgee, Geelong and Stafford; 35 will be allocated to Logan-Baillies, Gold Coast North and Gold Coast South; and 22 will be allocated to the districts of Corinda, West Moreton and Ipswich.

A similar strategic approach will be adopted in 2003 and 2004 to deploy the extra teachers effectively to improve educational outcomes. This is another one of the key strategies at the heart of the Beattie government's vision to make Queensland the Smart State. This strategy will also give us a stronger focus for achieving the department's vision for education over the next decade—QSE 2010.

The allocation of these extra teachers will make a real difference by reducing class sizes and providing a positive impact on student behaviour. Raising and educating children is a difficult job at the best of times, particularly more so if a young person has behaviour management issues. Placing additional resources where they are needed the most is a big challenge and the Beattie government is committed to addressing this important issue for smart schools in the Smart State.

---