



Speech by

Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard Wednesday, 6 June 2007

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

National Reform Agenda

Hon. PD BEATTIE (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.50 am): In February 2006 the Council of Australian Governments, COAG, made a commitment to progress the national reform agenda to help underpin Australia's future prosperity. Queensland is one of the leaders in bringing about this agenda.

As part of the reform agenda, COAG agreed to focus on three social issues that will play a significant role in this country's future—childhood education and care, type 2 diabetes, and literacy and numeracy. You can understand our passion for that, Mr Speaker, because of our obsession with the Smart State.

The states have developed specific reform proposals in each of these critical areas, and I am pleased to table the Queensland state plans for the information of members and Queenslanders. These plans, which I also tabled at the last COAG meeting in April, highlight the significant investment of around \$911 million that my government is making in these areas, and that was prior to the Treasurer's budget yesterday.

Tabled paper: Document by Queensland Government titled 'Council of Australian Governments, National Reform Agenda, Queensland's Plan to Address Literacy and Numeracy Reforms (Draft plan April 2007)'

Tabled paper: Document by Queensland Government titled 'Council of Australian Governments, National Reform Agenda, Queensland's Plan to Address Early Childhood Education and Care Reforms (Draft plan April 2007)'

Tabled paper: Document by Queensland Government titled 'Council of Australian Governments, National Reform Agenda, Queensland's Plan to Address Type 2 Diabetes (Draft plan April 2007)'

Our investment includes \$85 million in new funding to improve literacy and numeracy for poor-performing Queensland students in addition to the more than \$173 million already invested in this area. We have also committed \$206 million over five years to deliver integrated early childhood education and care, child health and family support services in high-needs areas.

In addition, the state plans outline our investment of \$619 million in the prevention and management of chronic diseases including type 2 diabetes. In April, COAG made solid progress in this area, with the states agreeing to invest \$200 million to address the significant growth in type 2 diabetes. With my government's significant investment in addressing chronic disease, Queensland is well positioned to meet our share of this commitment, and we are determined to do so. Queensland has also agreed to develop a national approach to quality assurance and regulations for early childhood education and care by 2008.

In the critical area of literacy and numeracy, we will develop a core set of nationally consistent teacher standards for literacy and numeracy by the end of 2007. We have also agreed to implement a diagnostic assessment system for children in year 1 to ensure that young children can receive the support they most need.

These plans are a clear demonstration of my government's commitment to addressing the key issues facing our future generations. I table the three reports for the information of Queenslanders.