



Speech by

Hon. Rod Welford

MEMBER FOR EVERTON

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Numeracy

Hon. RJ WELFORD (Everton—ALP) (Minister for Education and Training and Minister for the Arts) (9.54 am): As Kevin Rudd prepares to roll out his education revolution, here in Queensland we are continuing to roll out our own education revolution. Our government wants every child to develop excellent numeracy and literacy skills during their time at school. Already we have launched a number of initiatives to build the basic building blocks of a quality education such as the Healthy Choices tuckshop menus, the Smart Moves Physical Activity Program and the literacy framework that we launched previously. Today I am pleased to announce to the House that I am releasing another document titled Numeracy: Lifelong Confidence with Mathematics—Framework for Action 2007-10. We are committing \$1.5 million in this year's budget to drive numeracy initiatives and give our schools and teachers the skills and resources needed to improve numeracy levels.

We recognise that numeracy, like literacy, is a key pillar of learning and an essential part of our school curriculum. This document is an action plan to improve numeracy education in Queensland state schools. It sets out a range of actions—32 in all—that will improve numeracy education and give our students an even better start in life. Numeracy is about students having the confidence to choose to use mathematics skills they learn at school during their everyday life as well as the classroom. It is not just about mathematics skills.

Numeracy skills apply right across the school curriculum. For example, numeracy is used in science class when students independently interpret graphical information. It is also used in woodwork when students confidently measure a piece of wood or in cooking when a student halves a recipe. So every classroom teacher has a role to play in helping students develop numeracy skills.

Through this framework, Queensland state school teachers will be supported to develop students' numeracy skills. We are developing a focused professional development strategy and support materials for teachers to enhance their knowledge and their skills. We will implement this strategy throughout our state school system and identify and promote ready access by teachers to the quality resources and research materials that are available. We are also working with colleagues at a national level to ensure our work is consistent with the national approach to numeracy education.

This is a comprehensive framework that ensures that our aims and strategies for improving numeracy education in our schools will strengthen the quality of schooling throughout our state. We want all students to have the confidence to apply mathematics in their everyday lives, and this framework for action is the road map we will use and report against to achieve that objective.