



Speech by

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PREP YEAR, CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM

Mr LANGBROEK (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (11.56 am): I want to bring to the attention of the House and the people of Queensland report No. 100 from the Public Works Committee of this parliament, which has members from the Labor Party government and the LNP opposition. This report was introduced into the House this week and was titled *Prep school year capital works program*. We already know that the people of Queensland have been short-changed on full-time teacher aides. This report shows that this committee is concerned about the people of Queensland being short-changed on indoor learning areas and outdoor learning areas in the prep school year capital works program.

The committee report said that the targeted area of 3.4 square metres which the Department of Education, Training and the Arts was providing per child per classroom of 25 should exclude non-teaching areas, which are the kitchen and the teachers room. The report said that, even though Early Childhood Australia and the Queensland Association of State School Principals expressed concern beforehand in the design stage that they should be providing this area which does not include the kitchen and the teachers room, unfortunately the Department of Education, Training and the Arts did make the allocation of only 3.4 square metres per child. This has meant that the classrooms are not as big as they should be and that classes do not have space standards which are as good as they could be, even though they have said they ignored that consultation.

In relation to the outdoor learning areas, we had the minister for education talking in this place this morning about the fact that this is the Year of Physical Activity, but the Public Works Committee found that the location of some prep constructions 'has reduced the amount of outdoor learning area significantly, enough to severely limit the mandated play based curriculum'. The Public Works Committee saw the inconsistency in the size of useable outdoor learning areas, and it is of great concern to the committee and therefore to the people of Queensland. There is an inconsistency in the allocated outdoor learning areas in schools, and there is obviously an impact on the available outdoor learning areas from the unforeseen growth in the number of prep students, particularly in south-east Queensland. These are things that the people of Queensland are concerned about in the prep year that the government has delivered.