



Speech by


Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES

Hansard Wednesday, 23 March 2011

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Teacher Education Centres of Excellence

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Greenslopes—ALP) (Minister for Education and Industrial Relations) (10.03 am): The Bligh government is building for the future of Queensland by investing in our No. 1 asset—our children. Our education reform program is ensuring that Queensland children can access world-class education. The Masters review of primary school education highlighted the strong connection between teacher training and student outcomes. Teacher education centres of excellence are one part of our investment in high-quality teacher training.

Last October, the Bligh government announced the first centre based at Kelvin Grove State College. This centre will specialise in early childhood education. Then last week, I was joined by member for Morayfield, Mark Ryan, who I know is a passionate advocate for education in his electorate, at Morayfield East State School to announce the locations of the remaining four centres of excellence. These centres will improve and enhance the skills of pre-service teachers by immersing them in a supportive, specialised learning environment and ensuring they are equipped for the real world of teaching. Each centre of excellence will focus on a cluster of schools and provide intensive training in a specialised area. The Morayfield cluster, centred around Morayfield East State School, will prepare teachers for working in schools in low socioeconomic areas.

In Townsville, the Mount Stuart cluster, led by William Ross State High School, will focus on the unique requirements of Indigenous students and their communities. A special needs cluster will be led by Aspley Special School, and a partnership between Benowa State School and Benowa State High School will concentrate on maths and science teaching.

This is a landmark investment in Queensland's teachers and students by a government with a proven track record of delivering better education and a brighter outcome for our students. Everywhere I go in Queensland—and I have visited more than 30 schools since becoming education minister—I have met excellent, outstanding teachers. These centres of excellence will help Queensland teachers raise the bar and go to the next level.

Up to 300 high-performing, pre-service teachers will have the opportunity to participate in these specialist programs each year. These centres of excellence are the 'top guns' of teacher training: they will make the best of the best even better. That is a fantastic outcome for Queensland students.