




Speech By
Hon. John-Paul Langbroek

MEMBER FOR SURFERS PARADISE

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Education Reform

 **Hon. JH LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (Minister for Education, Training and Employment) (9.50 am): When the Treasurer hands down his second budget today, it would be useful if Labor members both in this chamber and in Canberra paid close attention. They will understand that the role of a state government is about providing services and doing so with economic prudence. A good government does not simply throw money at problems because it is too lazy or weak to develop real solutions. A good government does not develop a marketing campaign and think about the policy later. A good government does not alienate its stakeholder partners and service providers.

Over the last few days the Prime Minister has been critical of the Newman government's stance on Gonski and the National Plan for School Improvement. These outbursts have shown the Commonwealth government for what it is: a crumbling vessel drifting towards the rocks, incessantly sounding the foghorn in the hope that that alone will save them. No amount of PR, no amount of branding and certainly not an expensive Sunday night advertising blitz with cute kids and concerned parents can save the Gillard government.

The Newman government announces policies and then implements them. We announced independent public schools before the election and as of day one this year 26 schools were revelling in the additional freedom to determine their own futures with more to come this year. When we arrived in office, we found Labor had left schools crumbling with a \$292 million maintenance backlog. Within months of this government taking office, schools were receiving payments to repaint walls and fix gutters and footpaths. We saw a desperate need to address the deep cultural issues within teaching that saw good teachers lost to the system, frustrated by a lack of reward and opportunity. So we announced Great Teachers = Great Results—a \$535 million initiative that commences next year.

I contrast that with the Gillard government. Here is a group of people that has had 18 months to get together a response to the Gonski review and we still have not seen the detail. They have had 18 months to come good on their promise of having no school worse off, but at last count there are almost 300 Queensland schools that will be worse off under their new model. At least we know where the money is coming from. They are cutting their commitment to kindergartens in half and they are pillaging our university sector. That is before we start looking at the existing commitments that they are repackaging as new money.

The hidden cost, the real sting in the tail, is the red tape and inefficiency that Labor wants to introduce to the system under the guise of the National Plan for School Improvement. Indeed, it was the Independent Education Union which said in its May newsletter, 'The raft of proposals announced by the government will only result in further workload issues.' You know you are struggling when unions are against your proposals.

The Commonwealth government operates no schools, is responsible for no teachers and educates no students. Today's budget will show clearly how a government that knows education and plans for education will deliver for education.