




Speech By
Hon. John-Paul Langbroek

MEMBER FOR SURFERS PARADISE

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Great Teachers = Great Results

 **Hon. JH LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (Minister for Education, Training and Employment) (2.15 pm): Yesterday I said in this House that this year's budget shows clearly that a government which knows education and plans for education will deliver for education. Those who listened to the Treasurer's speech can be left in no doubt that we are true to our word. The education budget is up by 6.6 per cent this year.

Remember that the Commonwealth, throughout its big song and dance about education funding, has been preaching doom and gloom and that the states will not increase their budgets by three per cent. How does the Prime Minister look now? This year we will be increasing the number of independent public schools by adding to the 26 schools which are currently revelling in additional freedom and autonomy. We will continue to attack the \$292 million maintenance backlog left by those opposite with an extra \$100 million, which is in addition to the \$200 million we announced last year. The biggest commitment over the forward estimates is Great Teachers = Great Results, a \$537 million initiative over the next five years. The Newman government has a clear vision for education. We are committed to improving teacher quality and boosting school autonomy.

I have often said that I am the minister for all schools, and this was underlined yesterday with a 5.5 per cent increase for the non-state sector. The Catholic Education Commission said 'thank you' for the extra recurrent funding for Catholic schools. They recognised that this will help keep school fees down, and that is in keeping with our promise—underscored by the Premier yesterday—to keep the cost of living down. The Catholic Parents and Friends agreed and said they are thrilled that the government has prioritised education and the future of Queensland in these tough economic times. Independent schools recognised the increase in education spending, in particular pointing to the funding allocation for Great Teachers = Great Results, which would help them to focus on professional excellence in teaching.

Of course, the praise was not uniform. Our old friends at the Queensland Teachers Union were as predictable as that old oscillating fan. President Kevin Bates was running around telling anyone who would listen that we have decreased teacher numbers. I put on the record that this year we will be increasing the number of teachers, teachers aids and staff by 724. To be fair, at least it was better than last year's budget response, when he said that he and the QTU feared that P&Cs would pilfer money from the school maintenance fund if they got their hands on it. Unlike the Gillard government's Gonski reforms, all three sectors are in favour of our budget, and that is a resounding endorsement.