




Speech By  
**Hon. John-Paul Langbroek**

**MEMBER FOR SURFERS PARADISE**

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Cape York Aboriginal Australian Academy**

 **Hon. JH LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (Minister for Education, Training and Employment) (9.43 am): As the Minister for Education, Training and Employment, I am, of course, committed to ensuring that all Queenslanders have a quality education. It is a personal commitment of mine to improve outcomes for the 50,000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students in Queensland.

I would like to firstly place on the record that this is a commitment very much shared by the Premier, the entire Newman government, and, from what we have already seen, the incoming Abbott government. Tony Abbott has committed to elevating Indigenous matters to the highest level of government, as he will assume responsibility for this important portfolio by transferring Indigenous programs to the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet. Tony Abbott has reached out to thought leaders and leading practitioners to guide his new government. People like 'Twiggy' Forrest, Warren Mundine and Noel Pearson all have runs on the board and have demonstrated a willingness to think outside the box when it comes to improving Indigenous education, training and employment outcomes.

These are the types of people the Newman government will seek to work with. They share our view that it is only a partnership approach that will create opportunities for Indigenous Queenslanders; that creating opportunities cannot be the business of government alone; that raising the career aspirations of our young Indigenous people requires a concerted effort from the students themselves, their families and communities, including educators and employers. This approach is the cornerstone of Solid partners Solid Futures, the Newman government's new four-year Indigenous education, training and employment plan released during NAIDOC week in early July.

Yesterday I met with Noel Pearson to discuss the work of his Cape York Aboriginal Australian Academy. In keeping with the approach of Solid partners Solid futures, I am pleased to announce the 12-month extension of the CYAAA trial until the end of 2014. The trial commenced in 2010 and extends across the schools of three cape communities: Aurukun, Coen and Hope Vale. It uses direct instruction techniques and runs programs that build students' confidence to move between the Cape and the work and study opportunities of the world at large. An independent report has found that the trial is showing positive signs.

I have also heard from senior officers in my department, teachers and principals and Tony Abbott himself, that student behaviour and the quality of the learning environment have been greatly improved. The report also found that some more time is required for the true impact of this initiative to be seen. On this advice, and with the promise of further improvements, the government has taken the view that a 12-month extension is prudent and undertakes to update the House on the continuing progress of the Cape York trial.