




Speech By
Hon. John-Paul Langbroek

MEMBER FOR SURFERS PARADISE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Education

 **Hon. JH LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (Minister for Education, Training and Employment) (9.40 am): As the Minister for Education, Training and Employment, I would like to outline to the House how improving student outcomes continues to be the top priority for Queensland schools and the Newman government. Everything this government does in education is aimed at achieving better student outcomes. There have been some groundbreaking reforms in the education sector since the Newman government came to office. For years school communities, teachers and principals have been crying out for government to trust them—trust them to understand the unique education and learning needs of their schools, and trust them to manage school funding in areas that will deliver improved literacy and numeracy outcomes.

Unlike those opposite, the Newman government trusts school principals, trusts teachers and trusts school communities to manage their schools. That is why we have empowered schools to boost teacher quality through the \$537 million Great Teachers = Great Results direct action plan. Trust is why we have introduced new measures to strengthen a school's capacity to discipline students. Trust is why we are moving to reduce paperwork and red tape for all state schools this year as we work with schools to streamline administration processes and reduce the burden on school principals.

In 2014 another 54 state schools have opened their doors as independent public schools. Why? Because we trust schools with increased autonomy and are encouraging principals and school communities to make more local decisions. These are real reforms that will deliver real results and the Newman government is matching it with real investment in our education sector. Last year the Newman government increased the education budget by 6.6 per cent or \$707 million. This year the government is supporting schools to achieve better results through the Great Results Guarantee initiative being rolled out as we speak. That means \$131 million in extra funding for all state schools just this year. There is also the \$300 million maintenance fund which is helping to clear the maintenance backlog left behind by Labor.

When it comes to education policy, those opposite are a policy black hole. They have no idea. They ran out of ideas when they were in government, they lost interest, and they are still waiting for someone to turn the light on. The families and school communities of Queensland can be reassured this government is hard at work, and they can trust this government to make sure Queensland can remain a great state with great opportunity for generations to come.