




Speech By
Hon. John-Paul Langbroek

MEMBER FOR SURFERS PARADISE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Kindergarten Services

 **Hon. JH LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (Minister for Education, Training and Employment) (2.20 pm): As the Minister for Education, Training and Employment, I inform the House of yet another example of how this government is delivering on its election promise to revitalise front-line services. We know that access to quality education in the early years offers lifelong benefits to our children. This is why I am delighted to advise the House that more Queensland children are now attending kindergarten than ever before. The latest data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics indicates that 97.4 per cent of Queensland children are attending kindergarten in the year prior to starting their full-time schooling. This represents a vast improvement over recent years. My department reported kindy attendance rates of 29 per cent in 2008 and 77 per cent in 2012.

An opposition member interjected.

Mr LANGBROEK: It is not thanks to Labor, because we have taken it from 29 per cent to 77 per cent. We are supporting kindy participation in Queensland. Thanks to the support from the federal government, we have been able to significantly increase access to kindergarten services in Queensland. Just this year we have 19 new or extended kindergarten services opening—thanks to the LNP, not the Labor Party. That is more than 5,700 extra places for Queensland children—thanks to the LNP, not the Labor Party. We are investing in quality infrastructure. Some \$34 million has been provided to kindy services to undertake renovations or refurbishments—thanks to the LNP, not the Labor Party. We are providing subsidies to support kindy programs. There are now approximately 1,220 long-day-care services approved to deliver kindy programs. We also acknowledge that we have more work to do in supporting kindy participation across Queensland, especially for vulnerable and disadvantaged children, and we have a number of strategies in place such as over 180 kids now enrolled in e-kindy distance education—thanks to the LNP, not Labor; \$1.9 million to support children with disability participate in a kindy program; and grants available to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children transition between home and early childhood settings.

This government recognises the importance of supporting the transition between each stage of a child's education—from kindy to primary school, to high school and then to further education. We will continue to work with the federal government to encourage attendance and participation in early childhood education as a means of achieving better results all the way through from crayon to career. Ultimately, that is why this government is focused on lifting student outcomes and providing a solid foundation for Queensland's future prosperity so we remain a great state with great opportunity.