




Speech By
Hon. John-Paul Langbroek

MEMBER FOR SURFERS PARADISE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Budget

 **Hon. JH LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (Minister for Education, Training and Employment) (9.44 am): I am looking forward to the budget being delivered this afternoon, because Queenslanders know they can trust this government to deliver on front-line services in education. But I would not want to pre-empt the Treasurer, so instead I think it is a good time ahead of the budget being announced to remind the House just what we have delivered for mums, dads and students in education in the two years since we came to government.

In doing this, we need to go back to 2012 and consider what we inherited from Labor. It is a very worthy study in contrast. Let us start with school maintenance. Across Queensland, schools were in a state of disrepair. How bad was it? Labor left a \$300 million backlog, with schools across Queensland unable to make basic repairs. That is how bad it was. The Newman government came in and has now cleared this backlog. It is something I am proud of and something I have been willing to make some tough decisions about to ensure it happened because our first priority for students is to make sure that their school is a safe and pleasant place to be.

What about improving student outcomes? 'Put it in the too-hard basket,' said Labor. We, on the other hand, declined to use their excuses and instead came up with some new ideas. These included the Great Results Guarantee. We have given all state schools a share of \$131 million with the message that they must use it to achieve the national minimum standard for literacy and numeracy or have a clear plan in place to get students there. This means that mums and dads can see for themselves what their child's school is doing to ensure they are getting the important things right.

Funding is important but so is trust and empowerment, and that is what schools have received from this government in spades. What did Labor think about trusting our parents, teachers and school leaders to make decisions about how money in their schools should be spent? They did not like it. Command and control was where it was at and where it would be under Labor. Whereas they have had no interest in rewarding excellence in teaching, we have committed \$537 million to our Great Teachers = Great Results action plan, which is centred around recognising and rewarding high-performing teachers and school leaders and making sure we place great teachers in schools where they are needed most.

Let us not forget vocational education and training. Those on the other side of the House left industry crying out for skilled workers and TAFE withering on the vine. With Great skills. Real opportunities, our five-year action plan to revitalise the Queensland vocational education and training sector, we are unashamedly focusing on investing in training that will lead to jobs. After a first-class education, a job is the best thing we can give our young people. We want to continue this good work, and with the Education Accord we are working with our partners in education to build a shared vision for education over the next 30 years.

While we have had ringing endorsements from around the state for this historic endeavour, once again the silence of those opposite stands in stark contrast to the government's leadership. I hope when the budget is delivered this afternoon we can end this study in contrast. However Labor decides to act, I know that the people of Queensland can see that this government has the runs on the board when it comes to delivering on front-line services in education.