



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


**MEMBER FOR SURFERS PARADISE**

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Budget, Education**

 **Hon. JH LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (Minister for Education, Training and Employment) (2.20 pm): Yesterday's budget demonstrated that when it comes to education this government does indeed have a strong plan for a brighter future. Teachers and principals are central to this brighter future, as any Queensland mum or dad will tell you, and yesterday's budget recognises this.

As part of this government's focus on achieving better student outcomes, we are directing funding towards teacher quality, improving school autonomy and enhancing student discipline. To this end, the Newman government developed the \$537 million Great Teachers = Great Results action plan. In 2014-15 we have committed \$66 million of this to those at the front line of education—the people who play a major role in helping to shape our kids' interests, aspirations and achievements. This includes more than \$8 million for mentoring for beginning teachers, giving those at the start of their career access to the best and brightest; \$18.5 million to create 300 master teacher positions, acknowledging excellent teachers and ensuring that they go to the communities that need them the most; \$10.3 million to provide bonuses to reward high-performing teachers and school leaders; and another \$6 million to provide performance bonuses to eligible principals on contract.

Autonomy is not about saying 'do what you like'. Under Great Teachers = Great Results, autonomy means giving teachers and school leaders the support and professional development opportunities to be able to make the decisions that they need to make in order to get the best outcomes for their communities. Importantly, it means rewarding them when they demonstrate excellence. I cannot help but once again contrast this innovative approach to the one-size-fits-all model that Labor liked so much when it was in government.

Queensland is a diverse state—a one-teacher school out in Western Queensland is very different to a large metropolitan one down the road in central Brisbane. Labor thought that what worked for one school would work for another, and if it did not there was nothing they could do about it. That is where this government differs. I know that mums and dads across Queensland want to see their kids get a first-class education. Under our plan, teachers and principals will be able to provide it based on their own knowledge of and engagement with their local communities.

Madam Speaker, isn't it time that those opposite acknowledged that we are correct to back our teachers and school leaders? Perhaps they do, but I would not know because the by-election in Redcliffe was held 102 days ago, yet the shadow minister has not bothered to ask me a question without notice. Unfortunately for her constituents, the member for Redcliffe seems interested only in other electorates. Perhaps I can elicit some interest in the member's own electorate with examples close to home of how teachers and school leaders, given autonomy and flexibility, are delivering for their students under this government.

Based on day 8 data collection for 2014, the vast majority of Queensland schools have teacher to student ratios of one to 20. All six schools in the member for Redcliffe's electorate are below this ratio. But on class sizes, school principals have the autonomy and flexibility to work with their teachers and school community to form classes that best reflect students' needs and the education program. The average class size at every school in the member for Redcliffe's electorate was below the target or at the target class size.

Under Great Teachers = Great Results, we have a plan that delivers for mums and dads, teachers and principals, and most importantly students. The alternative is the inexperience and chaos of Labor and the minor parties. They have not learnt from their past mistakes and they have no new ideas. Today, more than ever, it is clear that the Newman government has a strong plan for a brighter future in education.