




Speech By
Yvette D'Ath

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Education

 **Ms D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (3.03 pm): As the newly appointed shadow minister for education, I would like to affirm my commitment to the students and teachers of Queensland. I am committed to working with the government and non-government education sectors to hear directly from them what their needs are and how we can work together to ensure the best possible outcomes for our young people, because we must always remember that at the heart of this the reason why we are investing in education and why it is so important is that our young people of today are the workers of tomorrow. They are our doctors and nurses, teachers, scientists and engineers. They are our tradespeople, our hospitality and retail workers. They will be the people who care for us as we age.

For this reason we must continue to strive for excellence, to provide the schools with quality teachers, to provide the teachers with the resources and support they deserve to allow them to be the best they can be. We need to ensure our schools are properly equipped so that we can provide our children with the best opportunity to succeed. Of course at the core are our students and parents. That is why I also affirm my commitment to work with the P&Cs and P&Fs to gain the broader perspective of what our state's needs are for the future of education in Queensland.

I believe that the best path forward would have been for the LNP government to sign up to Gonski. Only then would we have seen the implementation of a sustainable new school funding model that would finally break down the divisive debate between public and private funding. However, what we have ended up with is the federal government throwing money at the states with, as the state and federal ministers put it, no strings attached.

Government members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I call the member for Redcliffe.

Ms D'ATH: Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. I actually believe that those strings that the ministers talk about are important. I will explain why: the first string was that the Queensland government was required to put additional funding in as well as the federal funding; the second was to guarantee that the state education budget was not reduced over the six years of federal funding; and the third was to ensure transparency and accountability as to where the funding was spent. Without these so-called strings, we have less funding going to our schools overall, we have no guarantee that the state education budget will not be gouged and we will not have the transparency to ensure that federal funding is being spent based on needs.

Instead, we have the Newman government and Education Minister John-Paul Langbroek running around Queensland announcing and re-announcing the \$131 million—

Government members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Pause the clock. It is evident that the member for Redcliffe is not taking interjections and it is very difficult to hear her. The member for Redcliffe has the call.

Ms D'ATH: Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. Instead, we have the Newman government and Education Minister John-Paul Langbroek running around Queensland announcing and re-announcing the \$131 million in education funding from the federal government, implying it is state funding. Let us not forget that this is the government that cut 281 resource teacher positions from state secondary schools; failed to spend more than \$273.8 million of the 2012-13 Education budget; and changed the formula for calculating the number of teachers required at each school, creating a shortfall of an estimated 519 full-time teacher positions. It is time that the LNP government stepped up and fulfilled its obligations to invest in education.