




Speech By
Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Advancing Education

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (2.04 pm): We have entered a time of unprecedented global change. Technology is rapidly changing the way we live and the way we work. It is estimated that around 75 per cent of the fastest growing occupations require science, technology, engineering and maths related skills and knowledge and we know that many jobs are at risk of becoming automated in the near future. My government's Advancing Education is the first step in developing a long-term vision for early childhood education and care and schooling in Queensland. Today I have, along with my education minister, Kate Jones, and the member for Bulimba, Di Farmer, launched the first in a series of important discussion papers which will help us grasp opportunity and play our role in global change. It focuses on the importance of coding and robotics within the school curriculum starting next year. This is our opportunity to engage students, to engage parents and to engage teachers and talk about the next wave of education opportunities and, leading on from that, future jobs for the next generation of Queenslanders. Now is the time—and I believe that Queensland is already well placed—to take on these challenges, but we need a plan for education designed to equip young Queenslanders for life in what is expected to be a very different world and a very different workforce.

Advancing Education includes a range of targeted initiatives designed to support early childhood learning experiences, particularly for vulnerable children and families; inspire students to study science, technology, engineering and maths; improve literacy and numeracy; expand the study of cultures and languages, with a particular focus on Asian languages; improve pathways to teaching and teacher preparation; better manage the way that resources are distributed to our schools; expand the number of vocational education and training options in schools and reconnect disengaged students; and introduce a new senior assessment and tertiary entrance system. Advancing Education also provides the basis for a series of more detailed discussion papers to help achieve this vision. These important discussions will help to generate deeper conversations about how the delivery of education needs to adapt to develop our future workforce. The first of these papers to be developed, *Coding counts*, which was released this morning, focuses on the importance of coding and robotics within the school curriculum starting next year. Over the coming weeks and months we will be visiting communities across Queensland to talk to community leaders, teachers, industry representatives, parents and of course people from the education sector to discuss how we can build on these plans. We have also set up a dedicated web page so that all interested Queenslanders have an opportunity to share their thoughts and ideas. We want to encourage new ideas. We want to encourage deep thinking in this space to achieve a solid plan for education that is innovative and future focused. We want to be firmly focused on jobs for the future.