




Speech By
Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Advance Queensland

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.37 am): I want to report to the House on the outstanding success of last night's innovation and investment reception to promote the government's Advance Queensland strategy. I thank all members who attended, including the Leader of the Opposition and the Deputy Leader. There was a lot of energy and enthusiasm in the room, which is precisely the kind of energy and enthusiasm that we need to harness. We heard an excellent address from Wayne Gerard, one of the co-founders of Red Eye Apps and a great supporter of the work being done to stimulate the start-up sector here in Queensland. We also heard from Professor Frank Gannon from QIMR Berghofer, who spoke of the critical importance of commercialising research.

Advance Queensland is all about creating jobs for the future. We have other initiatives and programs that are concentrating on creating jobs now, but we have a dual focus to our Working Queensland strategy of jobs now and jobs for the future. Last night I had the pleasure of meeting some of the best and brightest in the innovation and IT sector who have great ideas on the drawing board or in the process of making their way from the drawing board to commercial reality. Those are ideas such as groundbreaking research involving 3D scanners; an app that can disable a mobile phone if a car is being driven by a P-plater; a heart-rate monitor utilising your mobile phone, and I can confirm everything was normal in my case; an iPad app for cabinet submissions—an app created by Queensland company Speedwell, which is now being used by the New South Wales and federal governments and the Reserve Bank.

While speaking of our best and brightest, I want to mention the achievements of Professor Perry Bartlett from the Queensland Brain Institute at the University of Queensland. Yesterday he was announced as the winner of the 2015 CSL Florey Medal for his breakthrough discoveries in neuroscience and, in particular, his work on dementia. This prestigious award is awarded to an Australian biomedical researcher every two years. Only 10 scientists have received the honour. It will come as no surprise that another Queenslander, Professor Ian Frazer, has previously received the award for his work on the cervical cancer vaccine.

Professor Bartlett's work has transformed our understanding of the brain. Most recently, in experiments in mice he reversed the effects of dementia and restored learning by stimulating the production of new nerve cells through exercise. Professor Bartlett will start clinical trials on this work next year—work that will be watched closely in a country where more than 300,000 people are living with dementia, and an estimated 1.2 million are carers for dementia patients.

Congratulations and thank you to Professor Bartlett. His discoveries are an example of what we are capable of here in Queensland. Through Advance Queensland, my government is driving innovation and research to help create the knowledge-based jobs of the future.