



Speech By  
**Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk**


**MEMBER FOR INALA**

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Record of Proceedings, 12 May 2016

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Education System, English**

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.37 am): My government is committed to ensuring that our education system provides students with the best possible preparation for future employment, further education and training opportunities. We recognise that, in the digital age, high-quality communication and literacy skills are more important than ever. Effective communication and literacy skills are essential building blocks for success in work, study and life generally. We want to ensure that every student in Queensland who finishes year 12 has these critical skills. That is why my government has proposed to make English studies compulsory for all year 11 and 12 students across Queensland.

It is essential that Queensland students are prepared for the jobs of tomorrow, and we need to foster a culture of innovation, agility and resilience in our young people. We know that studying literature, media and languages promotes creative thinking, imagination, critical awareness and the ability to communicate effectively in different situations. Queensland schools currently offer English, English communication, English extension and English for ESL learners. While we acknowledge that the majority of Queensland's senior students currently undertake English studies, we want to ensure that all senior students are equipped with critical communication and literacy skills.

The Ministerial Senior Secondary Assessment Taskforce will consider this proposal as part of broader reforms to senior assessment and tertiary entrance arrangements. If endorsed by the task force, English studies could become compulsory for year 11 students from 2018. These arrangements will be further considered by the government as part of the broader reforms to senior assessment and tertiary entrance arrangements, expected to be finalised by the middle of this year.

This proposal sends a very strong message about my government's commitment to the quality of education in Queensland and improving educational outcomes. I thank the Minister for Education for her very hard work in this area. She is doing an outstanding job.