



Speech By  
**Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk**


**MEMBER FOR INALA**

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Record of Proceedings, 17 August 2016

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **School Students, Website**

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (2.30 pm): Reports today that a website targeting school students in Queensland and other states in Australia are very disturbing. I have been reassured that both the Queensland Police Service and Education Queensland were swift to act after learning of these allegations. The police minister and the education minister have also met today, and I am further advised that the Department of Education and Training is also liaising with the Catholic and independent school sectors. The police minister and the education minister will ensure there is strong interagency collaboration to ensure any allegations in relation to this matter are investigated as swiftly as possible. Investigations will help inform any steps that need to be taken to strengthen the cyber safety of Queensland students.

Queensland's Task Force Argos detectives are internationally recognised for the exceptional work they do to protect children online and they are on the case. It highlights the importance of the decision we made late last year to invest \$3.2 million in Taskforce Orion to crack down on the online sharing of child exploitation material. Officers in Taskforce Orion are tracking down and targeting those who use the internet to share disgusting images—wherever they are across the state. An initial investigation has been conducted and found that the site appears to be hosted overseas and all also appears to not contain any child exploitation material. Every parent should be reassured that the government is taking action in response to these very disturbing allegations.

Cyber safety is something the whole community needs to be aware of. Schools have a role to play in educating students and police have a role to play in enforcing the law but police and schools cannot do it alone. We also need parents and caregivers to monitor what their children are doing in cyberspace and ensure they are educated about society's expectations, the law and possible risks. As police have said today, it is important for everyone to protect themselves online and understand the risks associated with posting any image on social media.

This also highlights why we need a response to serious organised crime that targets all organised crime, including child sex exploitation. There is always someone or a group of people responsible for the operation of a website and laws need to be able to properly target those individuals.