




Speech By
Brittany Lauga

MEMBER FOR KEPPEL

Record of Proceedings, 30 August 2016

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Advancing Education

 **Mrs LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (12.32 pm): The Palaszczuk government is determined that all Queensland children and young people will benefit from the opportunities of a quality education. We are advancing Queensland through a world-class education system that supports students to develop the knowledge, skills and qualities they need for the future.

Building a knowledge-based economy is important to create jobs for all Queenslanders. More opportunities for students to study STEM subjects, including coding and robotics, will prepare them for the challenges of the jobs of the future. Schools have to prepare students for jobs that have not yet been created, technologies that have not yet been invented and problems that we do not know will arise. In the next 10 to 15 years, 40 per cent of Australian jobs are at risk of being automated and three in four of the fastest growing occupations require, science, technology, engineering and mathematics related skills and knowledge.

Queensland students are being primed for the jobs of the future by the Palaszczuk government's strategy *Advancing education: an action plan for education in Queensland*. Our plan is for all students to be global citizens, skilled in STEM, with expertise in Asian languages and intercultural understanding, literacy and numeracy. We know that an essential ingredient of global competence is foreign language proficiency and a deep understanding of other cultures, which is why the Advancing Queensland strategy will create global schools through languages. We are expanding the study of culture and languages from prep to year 12 in state schools, with a focus on Asian languages. Recently I visited Cawarral State School, which is one of 20 schools in the state to receive a language innovation and improvement grant to teach Japanese to prep students. This is part of the Advancing Education global schools initiative. It is great to see Keppel schools leading the way in language, learning and building students' confidence to interact with other cultures and communicate in another language, which in turn opens a whole new world of possibilities for them as global citizens. I congratulate teacher Joanne Aaron, who has been at the forefront of this initiative and who will be introducing prep students to Japanese and the global world of language.

The Advancing Education strategy also recognises that #codingcounts. Our world is changing more rapidly than at any other time in history, with the influence of technology spreading to every aspect of our lives. Queensland is well placed to take the next leap to predict and respond to the global megatrends. This will keep us internationally competitive, influencing the way we live, the way we work and who we are. Coding and robotics are important for every student, to prepare them for the jobs of the future, where technology will be part of every workplace. It is not just about the code. Learning coding engages students in developing their skills in critical thinking, creativity, collaboration and innovation. Understanding coding is the new literacy, and a must-have for every student.

I had the privilege of witnessing students learning coding and robotics at Frenchville State School's Makerspace launch recently. Frenchville State School teachers, students and parents are all very excited to have been selected as one of only seven Makerspace trial primary schools in Queensland. A Makerspace is a physical location that brings people together with the purpose of making, tinkering, fixing and sharing. Makerspaces facilitate collaboration on personally meaningful projects by providing the tools and technologies in a central hub. The Frenchville Makerspace trial has involved the use of the latest technology equipment including robotics, coding software, apps and 3D printers. The trial has encouraged learners to use this technology innovatively to extend and deepen the curriculum, incorporating 21st century learning. When I visited the Frenchville Makerspace I was very impressed with the work the students had been doing in coding, 3D printing and robotics. I met year 3 and 4 students Daniel and Andrew, who showed me the work they had been doing with the spiro balls and their iPads. I was really impressed that they had been learning to code how to use these spiro balls.

The Palaszczuk government is advancing education by employing more teachers, supporting teachers to develop their practice and expertise, building better facilities and providing the resources our schools need to deliver an outstanding education. These are all critical to the future success of all Queenslanders. By making innovation and knowledge-based industries a key focus of this government, we are intent on delivering a new era of opportunity for Queenslanders.