




Speech By
Hon. Leeanne Enoch

MEMBER FOR ALGESTER

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Technology, Coding and Robotics

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algeester—ALP) (Minister for Innovation, Science and the Digital Economy and Minister for Small Business) (10.04 am): The Palaszczuk government has made no secret of its focus on preparing Queensland children for the jobs of the future. In fact, it is a key focus of our Advance Queensland initiative. Technology is changing our lives at an ever-increasing rate and this change will only become more rapid over the next two decades. The careers that our children and grandchildren undertake will be vastly different from the ones that we know today, many in ways that we cannot yet imagine. That is why it is critical to provide our children with the tools to fully participate in the workforce of the future.

One of the ways in which we are helping to drive this change is through \$200,000 of coding and robotics funding for libraries and Indigenous knowledge centres across the state. The grants will help public libraries and Indigenous knowledge centres conduct coding and robotics events in their local communities. Robotics and coding activities help children increase their digital literacy skills. The activities funded through these grants will help develop the digital creators and innovators of tomorrow's Queensland. This work supports the coding and robotics programs that are already being delivered in schools. I congratulate the Minister for Education on the work that she is doing through the *#codingcounts* discussion paper, which was launched last year. Public libraries support lifelong learning and literacy and coding and robotic skills complement the learning that occurs in our schools. Enabling members of the public to access training and informal learning opportunities with various coding platforms and available robots will promote a learn-through-play approach.

Recently, I was delighted to launch the funding program as part of the Gladstone community cabinet event. More than 250 people attended that launch. That gave a glimpse into just how excited children of all ages are about the chance to learn in this field. Of equal importance is that the attendance at the launch demonstrated that parents recognise how important exposure to this technology is for their children. That is important, because it will take everyone in the state working towards this new digital future to put Queensland at the forefront of the global knowledge economy. Advance Queensland is the platform from which we can launch into this new industrial revolution, marking Queensland as a key investment destination where new ideas and technology are embraced.