



Speech By  
**Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe**

**MEMBER FOR SANDGATE**

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Record of Proceedings, 24 February 2016

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Public Transport, Tertiary Student Concession**

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Transport and the Commonwealth Games) (2.40 pm): As promised, the Palaszczuk government is delivering on our election commitment to make travel easier for students. The Palaszczuk government is getting on with the job. We are getting on with delivering public transport infrastructure and services and solutions to Queenslanders—solutions like the new student concession system. Since I announced the new solution to student concessions, on 18 January, more than 19,000 students have applied for concession fares on their go cards to take full advantage of the new streamlined process.

Earlier today I visited the University of Queensland's St Lucia campus for market day, to meet the TransLink teams who are doing a wonderful job of talking to students about the new, simpler, technology based solution. Many students I spoke to on campus today were very grateful for the simpler concession solution. The students I spoke to were pleased to see a policy that was fair for both students and the tertiary institutions, taking the burden off both of them in terms of the bureaucratic red-tape minefield that had been established under the previous regime. Now, instead of signing up via myriad forms and approvals under the red-tape mess of the TTCC, they can focus on being students and sign up to the fantastic clubs and societies on campus such as I saw in the Great Court at the University of Queensland O-week today.

Now that we have introduced the simplest, smartest and most integrated student concession travel in the country, Queensland students are definitely at the top of the class. Instead of completing an annual paper based application and waiting—and waiting and waiting, like so many had to with the LNP's TTCC—tertiary and post-secondary students are now able to apply for concession fares on public transport with just the click of a button or a simple phone call.

We expect the number of students signed up to the new technology based system to rise rapidly over the next two weeks as students across the state prepare for semester 1 and indeed O-week celebrations this week. TransLink helpers are onsite at major universities during O-week celebrations to assist students applying for concessional fares. Eligible students can also enter a competition before 31 March to win go card credit, with 30 prizes of between \$50 and \$100 credit. We are encouraging even more students to sign up and access concession fares.

Eligible students in regional Queensland can also take advantage of the scheme. They can apply to their institution for an annual tertiary concession sticker on their student ID using the application form available on the TransLink website. This ensures that they, too, can access concession fares on public transport in regional Queensland.

By scrapping the cumbersome TTCC as students head back to university, the Palaszczuk government is embracing technology to make catching public transport even easier for Queensland students. This is a common-sense step forward and a win for more accessible public transport for Queensland tertiary students now and into the future.