




Speech By
Hon. Grace Grace

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Record of Proceedings, 1 March 2017

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Industrial Relations Act 2016

 **Hon. G GRACE** (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (2.38 pm): I am pleased to inform the House that the Industrial Relations Act 2016, which this parliament passed late last year, will take effect as of today, 1 March 2017.

Opposition members: Shame!

Ms GRACE: I take that interjection from those opposite who are calling out ‘Shame!’ The proclamation today of the Industrial Relations Act 2016 delivers a key election commitment to restore fairness to Queensland’s industrial relations system and industrial laws.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: One moment, Minister. Member for Kawana, I find that your comments are designed to disrupt the minister in her ministerial statement. If you persist I will take the appropriate action, and it may be under standing order 252. I call the minister.

Ms GRACE: Queenslanders want fairness and balance in their industrial relations laws, and that is what they will get under the Palaszczuk government. The new Industrial Relations Act gives effect to the recommendations of an independent tripartite reference group established by the government to review the state’s industrial relations laws and tribunals. It was the first such review in nearly 20 years.

The new act establishes the key defining features of a state industrial relations system that is now confined to the state and local government sectors. They include: a set of minimum employment conditions and standards; collective bargaining as a cornerstone for setting wages and conditions; requirements for genuine consultation between employers and employees; a set of individual rights to fair treatment; effective, transparent and accountable governance and reporting obligations on all registered industrial organisations and employer associations; and a strong and effective independent umpire.

I am particularly proud that the act delivers on the government’s commitment to provide 10 days paid leave for victims of domestic and family violence. Queensland is leading the way by being the first state to put this entitlement into law. In addition, we have delivered other commitments and restored common law rights for those injured in the workplace and their families as well as made changes to workplace health and safety to keep workers safe.

This new act wipes away the last vestiges of the Newman government’s unfair and unbalanced industrial relations laws in Queensland. Queenslanders want fairness and balance in their industrial relations laws, and from today that is what the Palaszczuk government’s new Industrial Relations Act will deliver.