



Speech By
Scott Stewart

MEMBER FOR TOWNSVILLE

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EDUCATION, TOURISM, INNOVATION AND SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE

Report, Motion to Take Note

 **Mr STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (12.37 pm): I move—

That the House take note of the Education, Tourism, Innovation and Small Business Committee report No. 40 titled *Managing the performance of teachers in Queensland state schools (Auditor-General's Report 15: 2016-17)*, tabled 8 September 2017.

As we see our students from Manly leave the gallery today after they have witnessed what we do best in this chamber, I think it is pertinent that we recognise and acknowledge the teachers for the great work they do in each and every one of our schools. There is no doubt whatsoever, as we heard from the Premier and the Minister for Education this morning, that education is the cornerstone of the Palaszczuk government. The Palaszczuk government has committed the largest budget ever into education, because that is how committed the Palaszczuk government is to teachers and quality learning that happens every single day in our classrooms. It is pertinent that we speak on this today because, as we have all acknowledged, this is State Education Week. As I look around the chamber today I see many members wearing their coloured ribbons to acknowledge World Teachers' Day tomorrow.

This report looked at managing the performance of teachers through the process they have implemented, which is the annual performance review process which was implemented in term 1 of 2015. When it comes to teacher performance, this starts at the top—right at the very top. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Director-General of Education, Dr Jim Watterston, for all the work he has been doing with Queensland education over many years. Unfortunately, we will see him disappear and head down to Victoria. I am sure they need as much help as they can get because we know that Queensland education is heading in a great direction. Thank you very much, Jim. What Dr Jim Watterston set up in Queensland was a culture of continuous improvement, and that is reflected through this report. This report basically asks how we get the best quality out of our teachers, and the answer is through a review process.

The foundations are right: the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers. This is recognised not only in Queensland but also right across the state and across Australia. This is the measure—that is the yardstick—that teachers will use when they develop their professional development framework. It is broken up into four different areas or stages throughout their career development. The first one is graduate teacher. After they move through that skill set they will move on to proficient teacher, after which they will move on to highly accomplished and then lead teacher. This sets great foundations for our teachers.

This report says that while teachers are doing an outstanding job—and we see that through the NAPLAN results year in, year out; we see that Queensland is kicking goals—they need to specifically hone in on the school-specific strategies. There needs to be work done in that area. This is a large area of work that the 45,000 teachers in our state schools will continue to do with their principals across the 1,239 schools in our state.

This is world-class education. When we know that we have world-class education, we then have to look at how we attract and, more importantly, retain these quality teachers. Through this particular report we look at work that needs to be done in the unsatisfactory performance area. The department of education has told us that they will accept each and every one of these recommendations from the Auditor-General's report. We look forward to making sure that they implement those strategies, which they have assured us will happen over the coming years. I commend the report to the House.