



Speech By  
**Brittany Lauga**


**MEMBER FOR KEPPEL**

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Record of Proceedings, 22 August 2018

**MOTION**

**Independent Public Schools, Order for Production of Documents**

 **Mrs LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (5.35 pm): The member for Scenic Rim says that the LNP has a great record in education! I can tell members that without a doubt the LNP does not have a great record when it comes to education.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. I cannot hear the member for Keppel. If you wish to make a contribution, rise to your feet at the appropriate time. Apart from that, the member does not appear to be taking interjections.

**Mrs LAUGA:** Some 500 teachers were cut under the former LNP government—500 teaching positions from Queensland schools. This decision put greater pressure on class sizes, robbed teachers of collaboration and preparation time and also meant that there were fewer teachers in our schools to support students with learning difficulties and disabilities. The LNP does not, member for Scenic Rim, have a great record when it comes to education. The Palaszczuk government has invested in state schools because we know that a quality education changes lives for the better and supports a knowledge based economy that creates jobs for all Queenslanders. I rise this evening to support the amendment moved by the minister.

Here we are again. The opposition is fixated on rehashing old ground to score cheap political points and grab media headlines. The education minister in this House and in the media has repeatedly stated the Palaszczuk government's position on independent public schools. There has been no secrecy. There is nothing to hide. The independent public schools policy framework, published in 2016, specified that there would be an evaluation of the IPS program at the end of 2017. The framework was published on the Department of Education's website. It is up there in black and white.


An external consultant, Potential Plus Solutions, was appointed to evaluate the IPS initiative. The evaluation commenced on 1 May 2018. The evaluation was thorough and involved a broad range of stakeholders including principals from both independent public schools and state schools, principals associations, P&Cs Qld and various unions. Unlike the LNP, the Palaszczuk government consults with Queenslanders. This evaluation has been about talking to all stakeholders to see what is working and what is not. It is about seeing how the learnings from IPS schools can be shared across all Queensland state schools. At no point has the education minister stated that the external evaluation would spell the end of the IPS program. I understand the consultant's report will be going to cabinet and will be released as soon as possible after that. I look forward to seeing the report and its recommendations. I am particularly keen to see what learnings from IPS can be shared across more schools.

There is one independent public school in my electorate of Keppel, Taranganba State School. Taranganba State School is an outstanding public primary school that is kicking goals in the classroom, in music and performance, and on the sporting field. In fact, Taranganba State School was a state finalist in the prestigious Showcase Awards for Excellence in Schools for its reading program, the Taranganba way of reading.

Interruption.

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Resumed.

 **Mrs LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (5.30 pm), continuing: To clarify, 500 teaching positions—500 jobs—were cut under the previous government. Taranganba State School was one of the state finalists—

**Mr Mander:** You've just made it worse.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Mermaid Beach has risen on a matter of privilege suddenly arising. He has indicated that he will write to me. There is no outcome of that process just because the member has risen to his feet. I ask you to respect the processes of parliament before giving other members of parliament instructions.

**Mrs LAUGA:** Taranganba State School was one of two state finalists for the Network Ten Showcase Award for Excellence in the Early and Primary Years. The showcase awards are the pinnacle of achievement for Queensland state schools. It was amazing to see one of our great local schools, Taranganba State School, recognised. The recognition at this level is a serious acknowledgement of the great work being done in our local state schools as they continue to provide the best possible education to students. The award recognised that Taranganba State School has demonstrated positive outcomes and ongoing measurable improvement for young students from prep to year 6.

We on this side of the House are focused on the big issues. We are focused on giving all Queensland students a great start. In 2018-19, we are investing a record \$14.1 billion in education and training. In education alone, this year, we are investing \$13 billion. I was particularly pleased to see a number of great local schools in my electorate benefit from the Palaszczuk government's record \$923 million infrastructure budget for 2018-19. For example, Yeppoon State High School received \$1.245 million out of a total of \$4.25 million to construct a new building and refurbish an old administration block into five learning areas. In addition, Yeppoon State High School has received \$124,000 for an upgrade to its e-learning hub. Throughout the 2018-19 financial year, \$623,000 will be allocated across 15 schools in the Keppel electorate for maintenance in schools. The Palaszczuk government's investment in our state schools will help to give all young Queenslanders a great start.