



Speech By  
**Hon. Grace Grace**


**MEMBER FOR MCCONNEL**

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Record of Proceedings, 15 February 2018

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

### Bullying

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations) (10.28 am): This year the Palaszczuk government has put the issue of bullying on the national agenda and committed our government to working with schools, parents, children and the community to stop bullying, especially cyberbullying. Our approach to this pervasive issue includes targeted education programs and providing support to students, teachers and parents to raise awareness about online safety and cyberbullying. Queensland signed up to the Online Safety Programs in Schools project agreement, providing \$1.4 million of federal funding across the state for Catholic and independent schools as well as state schools.

This funding supports programs delivered by providers certified by the eSafety Commissioner for students, parents and teachers. Despite the national focus on cyberbullying, the Turnbull government has yet again failed to provide funding certainty beyond the next few months—when the program expires in June this year. This is another example of the Turnbull government failing to provide long-term funding certainty for Queensland programs and services.

The Palaszczuk government will continue to support Queensland students through a dedicated team of specialists who assist schools in tackling cyberbullying and staying safe online. The department of education's own Cybersafety and Reputation Management team provide dedicated support to schools in responding to inappropriate online behaviour and actively seeks to shut down any web page or website that contains inappropriate, offensive or threatening content involving state school students or staff. The Cybersafety and Reputation Management team has provided more than 700 information sessions to over 91,500 students in 273 schools. The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse applauded Queensland's Cybersafety and Reputation Management team as exemplary and a model for other education jurisdictions. I will continue to advocate for the Turnbull government to commit to a new national funding agreement to ensure that these important programs receive the funding needed to keep our children safe from cyberbullying.

If those opposite are serious about protecting Queensland students from this clear and present danger, they will stand with the Palaszczuk government and call on the Turnbull government to restore funding certainty for these vital programs. The choice is simple for the Leader of the Opposition: support the Malcolm Turnbull government ripping funding from our state or join us and stand up for Queensland.