




Speech By
Hon. Grace Grace

MEMBER FOR MCCONNEL

Record of Proceedings, 7 March 2018

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations) (10.02 am): My congratulations to Jo, Jill and family as well. The Palaszczuk government has a proud, unwavering focus on tackling bullying and cyberbullying in schools. Queensland has led the way for the past 15 years and the Premier is now putting this issue squarely on the national agenda. The National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence, Australia's key anti-bullying event for schools—now in its eighth year—was a Queensland Labor government initiative. The national Bullying. No Way! website is managed by the Queensland department of education and is the primary mechanism in Australia for sharing information, resources and successful practices to counter bullying, harassment and violence in Queensland and Australian schools.

This year once again Queensland is taking the lead in encouraging students to stand united against bullying and violence not just in schools but in all aspects of life. This vital message will be centre stage on Friday, 16 March when school communities across the nation will highlight the importance of working together to tackle bullying and its horrible consequences. I welcome the Prime Minister's support for this Queensland initiative—

An opposition member interjected.

Ms GRACE: At least be proud of it—and his letter last week to school principals across Australia encouraging them to take part and obtain a Queensland developed anti-bullying kit. I am pleased to report that as of this morning nearly 1,000 Queensland state schools have signed up. This represents approximately 425,000 students and more are coming in every day. I encourage all members to get involved in any local activities they can.

As the Minister for Education, I know that in Queensland our schools work hard each and every day on strategies and practical solutions across all age groups. I have seen some of these in action, and I can assure members that principals and teachers take the wellbeing of their students very seriously. Every Queensland state school has a responsible behaviour plan for students which sets clear standards of the behaviour that is expected and the consequences for those who breach those standards. In partnership with Our Watch and the Luke Batty Foundation I recently attended the launch of a pilot program to teach young people respectful relationships. Cyber safety is a focus, and schools regularly train students in the proper use of technology, including mobile phones.

Bullying is insidious. It is an incredibly complex issue that reaches far beyond the classroom. We know that for victims it is truly awful. The Palaszczuk government will continue to lead the way in raising awareness, providing support for victims and developing and implementing strategies to stamp out bullying in all its forms. We all have a role to play.