




Speech By
Hon. Grace Grace

MEMBER FOR MCCONNEL

Record of Proceedings, 21 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) (10.10 am): There are no quick and easy fixes to the scourge of bullying, but the Palaszczuk government is determined to find solutions. On Friday last week more than 720,000 students of all ages in Queensland were asked to imagine a world free of bullying. Judging by the responses the Premier and I saw at the State Library workshop and then at my visit to Buranda State School, the result was truly inspiring.

Children of all ages posted messages about kindness, mateship, standing up for each other and ending the hurt that comes from careless words and deeds. Standing in front of 250 students at Buranda State School, Woolloongabba, yelling 'Bullying. No Way!' at the top of their voices is something I will remember for a long time. I thank the principal, staff and students for their warm welcome.

Due to the efforts of the Premier and the great team in my department that has been organising the National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence for the last eight years, there is a greater focus on the issue than ever before.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Deputy Premier and Manager of Opposition Business, please stop your interjections across the chamber.

Ms GRACE: Perhaps the Manager of Opposition Business needs to listen to this. It would be a good lesson for him to hear what students are saying.

For the first time, this year 100 per cent of state schools in Queensland participated in the national day of action, and there was very strong support from Catholic and independent schools too. There were record numbers of schools and students in Queensland, and across Australia, taking a stand, raising awareness and working together to find solutions to bullying and cyberbullying.

I know many members also participated in the national day of action with their local communities. At these events it was evident that schools and communities are actively involved and invested in making a difference in the lives of Queensland students. The day also provided schools the chance to showcase the many antibullying initiatives and programs they already have in place. Every student has the right to learn in a safe, supportive environment and to be treated with respect. I want to thank Queensland schools for their ongoing commitment to stand against bullying, not just on the national day of action, but each and every day.

The Queensland Anti-bullying Taskforce, which met for the first time on the national day of action, will be developing recommendations for Queensland to address bullying and cyberbullying. The Palaszczuk government is leading the nation on this issue. The government is committed to working with students, schools and communities right across our state to share our message: 'Bullying. No Way!'