




Speech By
Hon. Grace Grace

MEMBER FOR MCCONNEL

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Budget, Education

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations) (9.49 am): The Palaszczuk government's record investment of \$12.8 billion in the Education budget delivers on our commitment to plan for Queensland's future. We are committed to providing all Queensland students a great start in life, and of course a great start begins with a quality education. That is why we are investing in our education front line: our hardworking teachers, principals and school staff. The Palaszczuk government will employ an additional 1,000 teachers in our state schools in 2018-19 as part of our four-year commitment to employ an extra 3,700 teachers.

The Palaszczuk government has a strong track record when it comes to putting more staff into our classrooms. Since the start of 2015 we have employed almost 3,500 additional full-time-equivalent teachers and 1,135 additional teacher aides to meet continued student enrolment growth. This year's budget reaffirms the very high value our government places on the important work teachers and teacher aides do in our schools every day. It stands in stark contrast to those opposite, who have their own legacy when it comes to front-line public servants.

The Palaszczuk government is committed to supporting our state school teachers now and into the future. That is why the 2018-19 state budget includes an investment of \$107 million over three years for our Teaching Queensland's Future program for us to help prepare and nurture beginning teachers. We are also investing \$31 million over four years to establish four centres of learning and wellbeing to support staff in rural and remote areas in Queensland. The first two centres are being established in Roma and Mount Isa and will be officially opened in term 3 of this year, with the Central and Far North Queensland centres set to open during semester 1 of 2019. We are investing in specialist teachers too, with \$14.4 million delivering 15 additional instrumental music teachers each year for four years.

I was pleased to attend the Queensland Secondary Principals' Association conference last week to announce our continued partnership with Headspace over the next 12 months to focus on the wellbeing of school leaders. Our leading Curriculum into the Classroom, C2C, materials have been developed to support teachers, and these resources are seen as the exemplar in other states.

We know that state schools are great schools and that every day our teachers deliver a first-class education to Queensland students, and we should be proud.