




Speech By
Hon. Grace Grace

MEMBER FOR MCCONNEL

Record of Proceedings, 23 August 2018

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL

Education, Employment and Small Business Committee, Report

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations) (11.15 am): On 2 August the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee examined my portfolio areas of Education and Industrial Relations during the estimates parliamentary hearings. The questioning in estimates from the LNP and its statement of reservation in the final report again shows what an incompetent opposition it is. It is all about whinging. It is all about no substance. It is all about glib one-liners and political cheap pointscoreing. That is it.

I again remind those opposite of the facts, but I do want to start by giving the gold medal for the most useless question asked—and then again today in the House during question time—by the member for Currumbin. The gold medal—the gold star—is hers because, although there are claims about New South Wales students in Queensland—and we explained that it is unconstitutional not to deliver a service, that we have cross-border agreements, there are students from Queensland in New South Wales—she has yet to come up with one student's name who has been denied a place in a school in Queensland.

Just give me a name and I will give her a guarantee in this House right now—under the budget, under the Appropriation Bill—that I will fix any Queensland student denied an education in her electorate. However, I will not be holding my breath because I do not think there will be any names forthcoming. It is in her mind. She is just cheap political pointscoreing, making up unconstitutional questions about denying young kids an education. What irony that it was asked today when students from New South Wales are in the gallery here. That is a gold star, member for Currumbin. No-one will ever take it from her, and I would not be very proud of it either. I would be pretty well ashamed if I were her.

Mrs Stuckey interjected.

Ms GRACE: I again remind those opposite of the facts. The Palaszczuk government is delivering a combined—

Mrs Stuckey interjected.

Ms GRACE: She will not stop interjecting! She is still going on about it. She wants the government to act unconstitutionally. Instead of interjecting, come up with names. I have given you a guarantee. Give me a name. Tell her to give me a name.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Order! One moment, Minister. Members—

Mrs STUCKEY: I rise to a point of order.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Just one moment, please. Resume your seat. Members, it is hard enough hearing the minister without the discussions going on across the chamber. I remind you that if you are having conversations you need to take them outside. Member for Currumbin, you have a point of order?

Mrs STUCKEY: Yes. I take offence to what the minister is saying and I ask her to withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: One moment, Minister. Were the comments personal?

Mrs STUCKEY: Yes, they were personal. She has been referring to me. Her speech so far has only been about me. I ask her to withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: One moment, Minister. Resume your seat.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Mr Speaker has made very clear his intentions this morning. Any Deputy Speaker who takes on this seat will continue in the same vein as Mr Speaker, who has set high standards this morning. They will continue. Minister, the member for Currumbin has found statements that you made personally offensive.

Ms GRACE: I withdraw. The Palaszczuk government is delivering a combined \$14.1 billion in funding for education and training in 2018-19 and not one student will be denied access to education in this state. As to the allegations of the member for Currumbin, she should be ashamed of herself. Our investment in education alone in 2018-19 is \$13 billion. The 2018-19 state budget also provides funding for an additional 1,000 teachers as part of our election commitment to employ 3,000 extra teachers. Our infrastructure project will see over \$923 million invested in our educational facilities in 2018-19. I just spoke of our near \$100 million solar and efficiency measures in state schools through our Advancing Clean Energy Schools program. In the non-state sector, we are providing close to \$670 million in general recurrent funding and nearly \$100 million in capital assistance funding to 508 accredited non-state schools with 268,000 students.

In the Industrial Relations portfolio, we are getting on with supporting a fair, safe and productive workplace in Queensland. We will be implementing the best practice review into workplace health and safety in Queensland. Of the 58 recommendations, 90 per cent are either fully implemented or well advanced.

The opposition is nothing if not predictable. During the estimates hearing, the shadow education minister asked me just seven questions. Several of the questions asked by the member for Kawana were focused on plaques for the opening of schools. It was plaque-gate. We had to delay an opening owing to unforeseen circumstances. A \$13 billion Education budget came down to having to possibly replace one plaque in one school. That is absolutely unbelievable. The members opposite are more concerned about grabbing headlines and glib lines. That is the intention of those opposite.

I thank the chair, the member for Nudgee, who did an absolutely excellent job, my fellow committee members and those opposite on the estimates committee. This is an important process about how we spend Queensland government money. I thank them for their efforts.

(Time expired)