




Speech By
Hon. Grace Grace

MEMBER FOR MCCONNEL

Record of Proceedings, 5 September 2018

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Teachers

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations) (10.01 am): Queensland teachers are world-class educators. Every day in classrooms right across the state Queensland teachers work hard to give our students the very best start in life. The Palaszczuk government firmly believes that teaching is a highly valued profession. Already, we have employed an extra 1,000 in our schools throughout Queensland. We went to the last election with a commitment to raise the status of the teaching profession, because we believe that teachers deserve to be recognised and acknowledged for their hard work and professionalism. We want them to have career development opportunities and they deserve to be remunerated accordingly.

Last week, I was pleased to visit Jindalee State School with the member for Mount Ommaney, Jess Pugh, to announce one of the biggest reforms for Queensland teachers in decades. From 2019, we will introduce two new teaching classifications—Highly Accomplished Teacher and Lead Teacher—with the opportunity to earn around \$112,000 and \$122,000 per year respectively. Until now, the only career pathways for aspirational teachers were to pursue administration and leadership roles. These classifications are about giving our teachers a genuine career pathway that will see our best educators stay in the classroom. It shows that Queensland is an employer of choice for teachers.

The Palaszczuk government is proud to acknowledge the great work of Queensland's teachers and school leaders. We have already trialled the program in Far North and North Coast education regions. So far, 30 Highly Accomplished and three Lead Teachers have been accredited, with more to come. The first cohort will now be paid from 1 July 2018.

At Jindalee State School I met with three teachers who have already been accredited: Lead Teacher Susan Scott from Chevallum State School on the Sunshine Coast and Highly Accomplished Teachers, Dwayne Rees and Helen Hamilton, from Murrumba Secondary College. We have partnered with the Queensland College of Teachers to provide the national certification process aligned to the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers. These rigorous national standards recognise high-performing teaching across the domains of professional knowledge, practice and engagement.

From 2019, all teachers throughout the state will be eligible to apply for these new teaching classifications. The Department of Education and the Queensland College of Teachers will be running workshops to provide further information to those interested in applying. I encourage Queensland teachers to reflect on their personal practice and consider applying if they believe they are ready for this next professional challenge. This is a great outcome. It delivers on our commitment to let teachers teach and further recognises the important and professional work of our very best teachers.