




Speech By
Hon. Grace Grace

MEMBER FOR MCCONNEL

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Teacher Aides

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations) (9.56 am): Tomorrow, the first Friday in September, is Teacher Aide Day. I urge all to acknowledge the wonderful work of our teacher aides, who play a crucial role in the education of Queensland students. It is a day to recognise the enormous contribution our teacher aides make to our schools every day.

There are more than 19,000 teacher aides employed in our state schools helping Queensland students get the very best from their education. With continued enrolment growth expected in Queensland state schools, it is more important than ever to recognise the significant role our teacher aides play in our schools. Teacher aides work closely with teachers to provide a wide range of support for all students, often our most vulnerable.

This year the Palaszczuk government has fulfilled our commitment to boost teacher aide hours. We are providing an extra 4,000 teacher aide hours per week. This allows all state schools to have a teacher aide in every prep class for the first time. Our prep teacher aides play a vital role in helping children to develop the basic skills they need for learning. The importance of those early years in a child's education is well documented. Participation in prep improves a child's educational outcomes and is a critical foundation year for schooling. Teacher aides are such a valuable resource for teachers and parents, especially in those early days of prep, when students are transitioning to the school environment for the first time.

Teacher aides work closely with teachers to develop resources, set up and operate equipment, supervise students and participate in activities with the classroom teacher. I congratulate teacher aides across the state for the outstanding contributions and invaluable support they provide to their school communities.

It would be remiss of me not to mention that last week was School Support Staff Recognition Week—a time to celebrate and acknowledge the significant contribution that all support staff make in our schools. Support staff include our admin officers, janitors, canteen staff, school officers and cleaners, just to name a few.

I am sure we would all agree that these workers are the unsung heroes and the backbone of our school communities. I say congratulations and thank you to our teacher aides and our school support staff for the wonderful work they do. They are highly valued and appreciated by the Palaszczuk government and their school communities.