



Speech By  
**Hon. Grace Grace**


**MEMBER FOR MCCONNEL**

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Record of Proceedings, 19 September 2018

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Rural and Remote Queensland, Education**

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations) (10.00 am): The Palaszczuk government is committed to providing a world-class education for all Queensland students, regardless of where they attend school in this great state. Enhancing the learning opportunities of rural and remote students is one of the key priorities of this government. That is why we are continuing to invest in our rural and remote teachers and schools.

In 2018-19, the Palaszczuk government is investing over \$1 million to attract graduate teachers into some of the state's more rural and remote schools through our Teach Rural scholarships program. This year we have 40 general teaching scholarships and 32 STEM specialist scholarships on offer to final year preservice teachers. Applications open on 8 October 2018 via Smart Jobs and Careers, and I would encourage anyone in their final year of a teaching qualification to apply for this great opportunity.

On 29 August, I had the opportunity to attend the Teach Queensland Career Fair at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre with the Director-General, Tony Cook. This annual event, run by the department, attracted 740 attendees at different stages in their teaching careers. It was inspiring to speak with many who were excited about the prospect of teaching in rural and remote Queensland state schools.

The Palaszczuk government is committed to looking after our teachers in rural and remote locations. We are investing more than \$31 million over four years to establish four centres for learning and wellbeing to support teachers in rural and remote areas, including centres in Mount Isa and Roma and two further centres next year in North Queensland and Central Queensland. I am looking forward to visiting Mount Isa next month to officially launch our rural and remote strategy.

We are investing \$13.6 million to upgrade teacher houses in rural and remote areas, and an additional \$2 million for improved internet connection. These upgrades will ensure teachers who take up the opportunity to live and work in our remote and rural communities have safe, secure and modern homes.

I am proud of our hardworking teachers, teaching support staff and school leaders and the tireless efforts they make in our schools every day. Their efforts were reflected in the most recent NAPLAN results, where we again saw continued improvements in schools across the state. I was particularly heartened to see continued improvements in many of our rural and remote schools—including Yorkeys Knob State School in Cairns, Doomadgee State School and Geham State School in Toowoomba. All of our schools should be acknowledged for the work they are doing in supporting student growth and development every day.

I would like to thank and acknowledge our dedicated teachers right across Queensland as we come to the end of term 3. I particularly acknowledge our teachers in rural and remote locations who are contributing greatly to education in our state. Teaching changes lives—and there is no better time to 'Teach Queensland'.