




Speech By
Hon. Grace Grace

MEMBER FOR MCCONNEL

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Education

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations) (9.50 am): The Palaszczuk government is committed to providing a world-class education for all Queensland students no matter where they live. We know that our schools in rural, remote and regional locations provide a rich, rewarding and well-rounded education for students. We know that state schools are often the heart of our regional towns.

It was my great pleasure to visit one such school recently with the Premier and Deputy Premier during governing from Toowoomba. We met with student leaders and staff from Harristown State High School during their holidays and inspected the site of a \$15.4 million classroom building, which is part of our 2020 Ready program.

Ms Trad: They came in their uniform.

Ms Palaszczuk: During the holidays!

Ms GRACE: I take the interjections from the Deputy Premier and Premier. They were in their uniform during the school holidays, and we greatly appreciated their dedication in coming along. The project will deliver 14 new classrooms, two flexible learning areas, a new administration space and additional car parks—a welcome boost for this regional state school that provides great education.

Last week I also had the pleasure of visiting schools at Mount Isa and opening our new Centre for Learning and Wellbeing in the seat of Traeger. It was a great pleasure to meet Lead Principal Mr Tim Moes—a truly wonderful principal—and see firsthand the important work being done to ensure that students in rural and remote Queensland are provided with access to quality educational opportunities and that their teachers receive all the support and training they need.

This is the first of four centres of learning and wellbeing which we are delivering as part of our four-year, over \$100 million Rural and Remote strategy. It was also great to have Mayor Joyce McCulloch and Councillor Peta MacRae present at the launch. We are also establishing a centre at Roma in the seat of Warrego which will be managed by Lead Principal Dale Magner.

Today I am pleased to announce the location of the two remaining centres. These will be established at Emerald in the seat of Gregory in Central Queensland and at Atherton in the seat of Hill in Far North Queensland and will open in 2019. Soon the department will start recruiting for principals to lead these centres and I look forward to meeting with them when I visit the centres to see them in action.

School communities across Queensland will celebrate World Teachers' Day next Friday, 26 October. This is a time for all of us to stop and acknowledge the incredible work teachers do every day in our schools. All Queensland teachers in state and non-state schools will receive a commemorative ribbon which they can wear with pride on the day. All members in this House have also received ribbons. I encourage all MPs to join with me in wearing their ribbons in support of Queensland

teachers. I also urge MPs to take part in the exciting events taking place in state schools next week as part of State Education Week celebrations, culminating, of course, on Friday for World Teachers' Day.