




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) (9.57 am): Queensland is the shining star when it comes to education. Twelve months ago the Palaszczuk government was re-elected on a platform of ensuring young Queenslanders receive the best possible education no matter where they live, and we have delivered. Thanks to the Palaszczuk government there are 1,009 more teachers working in classrooms—from Cape York to Coolangatta—than there were 12 months ago. As the Premier mentioned, we have built five new schools and opened Baringa, Picnic Creek, Townsville's North Shore and Yarrabilba, with Spring Mountain State School near Springfield to be opened in January to welcome its first students. On Tuesday the Premier and I turned the first sod on construction of the new Inner City North State Secondary College, one of six new schools that will be ready for students in 2020.

We are also building new classrooms and school halls and refurbishing existing facilities across the state. In the past 12 months, new or upgraded school halls have been opened at 22 schools across the state and a further five halls will be completed by the end of the month. These are fantastic facilities, like the new multipurpose hall at Trinity Bay State High School that I opened recently with the Premier and the member for Cairns, and the halls at Kingaroy, Balmoral, Yeppoon and Pimpama, to mention a few. I thank the local members who opened the halls I was unable to open. As part of our \$250 million 2020 Ready initiative, new and enhanced classrooms have been built at 12 schools and are now being put to good use.

The Palaszczuk government's investment in more teachers and teacher aides and better education facilities is paying great dividends. Queensland is one of the most improved states since NAPLAN testing started, as we have seen continued improvement in reading and spelling, especially in years 3, 5 and 9.

Let us not forget the recent Grattan Institute report which singled out Queensland as a shining star in its state-by-state report. The Grattan Institute commended Queensland for its emphasis on lifting standards for teacher professional development and our unrelenting focus on improving literacy and numeracy. It has been a very busy 12 months and successful 12 months in the Education portfolio, with Queensland shining on the national and international stage. The Palaszczuk government has delivered, but we need the federal government to provide equitable funding so we can continue to deliver a world-class education for Queensland students and give every child a great start.