




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR MANSFIELD

Record of Proceedings, 2 May 2019

ADJOURNMENT

Griffith University, Teacher Education

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (6.01 pm): I rise to celebrate 50 years of teacher education programs at the Mount Gravatt campus of Griffith University. Teacher education is one of the flagship areas of Griffith University in my electorate. More than 3,000 undergraduate places are offered annually in primary and secondary teacher education, adult and vocational education and training, autism studies, special needs education and early childhood education.

Over the past 50 years Griffith University has produced more than 40,000 education graduates, hundreds of whom I have had the pleasure of working with. The School of Education and Professional Studies is ranked in the Quacquarelli Symonds World University Rankings by Subject top 100 schools worldwide and has been for the past four years. Griffith graduates go on to be employed in the independent, Catholic and state education systems as well as internationally.

The original Mount Gravatt teachers college was established by the innovative Queensland education department to prepare teachers for service across the state. Working in the education profession for the past 24 years, including being a principal for the last 11 years, I know how important it is to ensure we train the best teachers for our young people. Teachers shape our students to become good citizens and provide the foundation for lifelong learning skills as young people navigate a fast paced technological world.

I would like to highlight key events for education in Queensland. They include the abolition of the scholarship examination in 1963 and the passage of the state Education Act in 1964, just a little before my time. This milestone marked the beginning of a new age in primary education. In August 1957 Queensland had only 37 state high schools and 34 secondary departments attached to those high schools. By 1980 the number of state secondary schools in Queensland had almost tripled, to 135 high schools and 68 secondary departments. Today the Palaszczuk government supports more than 1,400 schools and continues to lead the charge in developing initiatives to support Queensland's current and future teachers, including the new salary classifications for highly accomplished and lead teachers to help us to retain our best classroom educators.

I would like to congratulate Griffith University's School of Education and Professional Studies on reaching their 50th anniversary milestone. They have shaped many teachers' careers, and I look forward to working with them and continuing to share their legacy.