



Speech By  
**Hon. Grace Grace**


**MEMBER FOR MCCONNEL**

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Record of Proceedings, 28 February 2019

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**International Mother Language Day; Principal Wellbeing; National Day of Action  
Against Bullying and Violence**

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations) (10.00 am): 'Altoparlante, oggi parlo Italiano la mia lingua madre de famiglia. Buongiorno a tutti per la giornata Internazionale Della Lingua Madre.' Today I speak Italian, my family language. Good morning to all on International Mother Language Day.

The Palaszczuk government respects and strongly supports our state school principals. On Tuesday I joined the Premier to address the Department of Education's biennial principals' conference where we both thanked school leaders from 1,267 schools and centres across the state. They have a challenging job and we are backing them 100 per cent. On Tuesday at the conference I was pleased to launch the government's \$136 million Teaching Queensland's Future strategy. This five-year strategy will commence in early 2020 and will ensure that our school leaders and teachers are supported now and into the future and are best placed to deliver a world-class education.

Included in this package of initiatives is an \$8 million Australian first partnership between the Department of Education and Associate Professor Philip Riley of the Australian Catholic University to develop a Principal Health and Wellbeing Strategy. Professor Riley is a respected researcher in the fields of educational leadership and the wellbeing of school leaders. His research not only highlights the demands and impacts of school leadership but also includes recommendations for improving the occupational health of school leaders, and I am delighted that he has agreed to work with us implementing these recommendations. The partnership with Associate Professor Riley has been welcomed by all school leaders and their representative associations.

I also announced this week a \$10 million investment to develop a comprehensive leadership framework for school leaders and the extension of the department's and principals' associations existing partnership with Headspace, which currently provides mental health and wellbeing support to school leaders. In recognition of the success of this partnership, funding will increase from \$400,000 to \$500,000 and will be made recurrent. The initiatives included the Palaszczuk government investing \$31 million to establish centres for learning and wellbeing across the state that provide on-the-ground support to principals and school staff in rural and remote parts of Queensland. Centres in Mount Isa and Roma commenced work in 2018 and new centres in Emerald and Atherton will be established this year.

In addition, we will continue to run workshops across the state, together with the centres, as well as continuing our mental health first-aid program. A regional network of health, safety and wellbeing consultants are also in place to support principals, teachers and all school staff, which includes the department's excellent Employee Assistance Program offering free confidential counselling. Principals across the state are shaping the global citizens of tomorrow and the Palaszczuk government has their backs. I trust they had a very successful 2019 principals' conference.

Today I note that many members are wearing the orange ribbon to promote the National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence. Queensland is a lead jurisdiction in the Safe and Supportive School Communities Working Group which provides evidence based information and advice on bullying, harassment and violence for Australian teachers, parents and students. Schools across Australia are being called to get involved and take action on the ninth National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence for Friday, 15 March 2019. I encourage all Queensland schools to sign up to be part of this important day in the fight against bullying.