




Speech By
Hon. Grace Grace

MEMBER FOR MCCONNEL

Record of Proceedings, 11 June 2019

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Budget, Education

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations) (9.53 am): The 2019-20 state budget is yet more proof of the Palaszczuk government's iron-clad commitment to education in this state. The Department of Education's total budget for 2019-20 is a record \$13.761 billion, an increase of \$789 million, or 6.1 per cent, on 2018-19. Some \$9.5 billion, or 69 per cent of the overall budget allocation, will be invested in our state schools, an increase of \$500 million, or 5.6 per cent, on the previous year. There is also \$293 million for early childhood education, up 8.2 per cent, or \$22 million, on the previous year.

The 2019-20 budget includes a record \$1.464 billion infrastructure spend which will deliver four new schools and provide for the refurbishment and expansion of existing schools from Cape York to Coolangatta. This infrastructure spend represents an over 55 per cent increase on last year's budget. New primary and special schools will be built at Palmview, a new secondary school will be built on target at Caloundra South and a new primary school will be built at Pimpama on the Gold Coast. These new state schools will enrol students for day 1 in 2021 along with the new Inner City South State Secondary College, which we are delivering in Dutton Park for Brisbane's inner southern suburbs. This investment will see the total number of new schools opened by our government since 2015 increase to 26.

The budget also includes funding for early works on a new secondary school at Palmview, which has been under active consideration for a number of years and is forecast to open in 2023. Following master planning of 35 inner city schools over the past 12 months, I am pleased that this year's budget includes funding to start bringing these master plans into action at eight schools: Toowong, Newmarket, Brisbane Central, New Farm, Morningside, Ithaca Creek, Windsor and Petrie Terrace state schools. This will see new and enhanced classrooms, libraries and outdoor and administration areas built at these schools that are fast growing in the inner city. It will be fantastic for those students.

The added benefit of our huge education infrastructure program is the jobs it will create in the building and construction industry. Our infrastructure program is expected to support around 4,200 jobs across our state. The 2019-20 budget also includes increased funding of \$100 million over four years for priority state school air-conditioning projects which, including our existing investment, will bring total funding to \$191 million over five years. This will include upgrades of air-conditioning units in schools in the Cooler Schools Zone and other priority school air-conditioning projects as identified through a review of state school air-conditioning needs.

The Palaszczuk government made a commitment to employ an additional 3,700 teachers over four years and we are delivering on that commitment. The budget includes additional funding to employ 1,000 additional teachers and over 200 extra teacher aides to cater for increased enrolments in our Queensland state schools. Included in this investment is a boost of at least 240 teachers and teacher

aides to ensure students with a disability get the support they need. The 2019-20 budget means the Department of Education can continue to give Queensland kids a great start by providing a world-class education wherever they live in our great state.