



Speech By  
**Hon. Grace Grace**


**MEMBER FOR MCCONNEL**

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Record of Proceedings, 4 September 2019

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**NAPLAN**

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations) (5.54 pm): Last week the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority, ACARA, released the preliminary results from this year's NAPLAN tests. I am proud to advise that Queensland continues to be NAPLAN's star performer and the most improved state in literacy and numeracy since NAPLAN testing began in 2008.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Minister, I am sorry to interrupt you. Members to my left, the minister is giving a ministerial statement. I do not believe she is being combative with that statement. I ask you to hear the statement by the minister.

**Ms GRACE:** One year does not tell a story, but 10 years does. Since 2008 Queensland students have improved in 17 of 20 NAPLAN test areas against the national minimum standard, mean scale score and upper two bands, and nobody can take that away from our Queensland students. As recently agreed by all Australian education ministers, this year's results must be interpreted with care. I repeat that: as recently agreed by all Australian education ministers—every one of them, including the federal minister—this year's results must be interpreted with care due to online glitches and concerns with comparing written and online testing. Queensland's improvement over time has been acknowledged nationally. The Grattan Institute has described Queensland as a 'star performer'. Last week, University of Western Australia academic Glenn Savage described Queensland as a 'standout with improvements significantly above average in several year levels and assessment areas'.

NAPLAN is not about comparing schools. Like the Gonski recommendations, it is about individual student growth and school growth. Queenslanders should be proud of the progress that our students and schools are making—schools such as Townsville Central State School, Thuringowa State High School in the electorate of Thuringowa, and Beenleigh State School and Beenleigh State High School in the electorate of Macalister, just to name a few.

Our NAPLAN results prove that the vision, record investment and continued focus on education by successive Labor governments are paying dividends. Labor's vision to introduce prep has been supported statewide. It was the Palaszczuk Labor government that, in 2016, made prep compulsory for all students. I note that the preppies now in year 3 have achieved some of our best results in writing since NAPLAN testing began.

However, we are not about to rest on our laurels, which is why this year's state budget includes a record \$13.8 billion for education, which is up six per cent on the previous year. We are employing 1,000 extra teachers as part of our commitment to employ 3,700 additional teachers over four years and we are employing an additional 200 teacher aides in the next 12 months. We will also invest a massive \$1.5 billion on new and enhanced education infrastructure at schools right across Queensland,

ensuring that our kids are getting a world-class education in great facilities. We are partnering with New South Wales and Victoria to review NAPLAN to ensure that after 10 years it continues to meet its primary objectives. Only today we received the terms of reference from the New South Wales Liberal government.

The Palaszczuk government's commitment to education will ensure that our children get a great start and will continue to lead the nation in individual student and school progression. Nobody can take that away from Queensland students.