



Speech By  
**Hon. Grace Grace**


**MEMBER FOR MCCONNEL**

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Record of Proceedings, 5 September 2019

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Teacher Aides; School Support Staff**

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations) (10.04 am): Tomorrow is Teacher Aide Day, held annually on the first Friday in September. It is a day to recognise the enormous contribution our teacher aides make in our schools right across Queensland each and every day. The Palaszczuk government backs our teacher aides 100 per cent. There are more than 19,000 teacher aides employed in our state schools, helping Queensland students get the very best from their education. Teacher aides work closely with teachers to provide a wide range of educational support for all students such as aiding with reading and writing and delivering learning activities with the classroom teacher.

The Palaszczuk government has delivered on its commitment to boost teacher aide hours, providing an extra 4,000 teacher aide hours per week, allowing all state schools to have a teacher aide in every prep class for the first time. Every day teacher aides provide valuable support for teachers and parents, especially in those early days of prep when students are transitioning to the school environment for the first time. We welcome our new agreement with teacher aides which provides improved opportunities for career progression and increased allowances for those working with vulnerable students. I look forward to celebrating Teacher Aide Day tomorrow morning with Minister O'Rourke and the member for Townsville at Mundingburra State School, where teacher aides from around Townsville have been invited for a special breakfast.

It would be remiss of me not to mention that last week was School Support Staff Recognition Week—a time to celebrate and acknowledge the significant contribution all support staff make in our schools. Our cleaners, admin officers, ground staff, therapists and guidance officers, just to name a few, are the unsung heroes and backbone of our school communities. I also thank them for their efforts. I was delighted yesterday to host a great lunch event for support staff from 33 Townsville schools with the member for Thuringowa that saw around 150 in attendance. I was delighted to present 20 certificates of recognition to staff who had done over 25 years of service—such as Heather Chapman from Kirwan State High School, Sue Dilger from Bohlevale State School and Lynda Ross from Wulguru State School, who have a combined service of over 130 years. Our schools are able to achieve great outcomes thanks to the tireless efforts of teacher aides and support staff. I congratulate them. Teacher aides, enjoy your day.