




Speech By
Hon. Grace Grace

MEMBER FOR MCCONNEL

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Education Queensland; School Infrastructure

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations) (9.50 am): This week is State Education Week and there is no better time to reflect on Queensland's education sector, with the Palaszczuk government delivering on its iron-clad commitment to give every child a great start and a world-class education. That is why this week I was very proud to hear that the Queensland Department of Education had been honoured by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching in the United States of America. Education Queensland is one of only three recipients from around the world to receive this prestigious award, with Carnegie President Anthony Bryk saying, 'We are thrilled to honour the exemplary efforts of the Queensland Department of Education and share out into the education field practical lessons from their efforts.' In particular, they also praised our efforts in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. We will be honoured on 21 November at the Spotlight on Quality in Continuous Improvement Symposium, at the National Press Club in Washington DC, along with two American school improvement initiatives. Congratulations to my department! Of course, this comes on the back of the Grattan report that identified Queensland as a star performer in school improvement across the nation.

Providing a world-class education is not possible without world-class facilities for our hardworking teachers, staff and students. That is why the Palaszczuk government is investing record amounts in our school infrastructure. We have a record \$13.76 billion education budget, which is up by \$789 million compared to last year. We have a record \$1.5 billion school infrastructure spend, which will deliver eight new schools next year, another four new schools in 2021 and \$100 million for non-state school capital funding, and will help upgrade schools from Cape York to Coolangatta.

Our record investment in school infrastructure means we are catering for increased student numbers in our fastest growing regions. We are building new schools on the Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast, Logan, Ipswich and in the Moreton Bay region. Following a period of unprecedented inner city growth, two new high schools will be built here in the city, one in Fortitude Valley to open in 2020 and another at Dutton Park to open in 2021. They will be the first new high schools built in the inner city in over 50 years. All of that is just more proof that the Palaszczuk government's investment in schools and quality teachers and staff is paying off, and is giving every child a great start with a recognised world-class education.