




Speech By
Hon. Grace Grace

MEMBER FOR MCCONNEL

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Education, Showcase Awards

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations) (10.04 am): During State Education Week the Queensland government is recognising the important work our educators do every day in teaching our students the skills and lessons to give them the best possible future. The Department of Education Showcase Awards for Excellence in Schools are considered to be Queensland's most prestigious awards program for state education. They highlight the Queensland state schools' efforts in developing innovative practices and recognise excellence in teaching and leadership that improve outcomes for students.

This year is extra special, as we celebrate the 20th anniversary of the annual showcase awards. Many nominations have been received, with 120 high-quality submissions from schools in every corner of Queensland, from Prairie in the outback to Brandon in the north and from Eidsvold in the Burnett to Gatton in the Lockyer Valley.

Congratulations to the 19 finalists across nine categories, which include two great programs—one at Beenleigh State High School in the electorate of Macalister called the Paddock 2 Plate program, which gives students a taste of real world employment opportunities. In August I was fortunate, with the Premier, Minister Fentiman and the member for Macalister, to join hundreds of locals for a lunch prepared by the students with celebrity chef Matt Golinski. This initiative is boosting student engagement and retention rates and the school is proud to report that every student is receiving their QCE. Congratulations.

The other at Mossman State School in the electorate of Cook is engaging with Indigenous and non-Indigenous students through its Indigenous Language Program, which understands the value of language—how it links people to the land and promotes history through story and song, lifting school attendance numbers and boosting academic achievement. Congratulations to them. I see the member for Cook with a big smile on her face, nodding very attentively.

Later today the Premier and I will join school communities from around South-East Queensland at an afternoon tea to celebrate State Education Week. Some of the finalists for the showcase awards will also be there, with winners to be announced at a gala dinner this Friday, coinciding with World Teachers' Day. State schools are great schools, and I would like to acknowledge the great work that is being done in classrooms, art rooms and music rooms all over Queensland every day of the week giving every child a great start.