



Speech By  
**Hon. Grace Grace**


**MEMBER FOR MCCONNEL**

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Record of Proceedings, 24 October 2019

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

### World Teachers' Day

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations) (10.06 am): Queensland teachers are dedicated and passionate professionals who make a positive difference for students every day of the school year. I am sure that every member of this House remembers a teacher who had a profound impact on their lives as a child. For me, it was one of my primary school teachers, Miss Davis. There are more than 53,000 state school teachers and more than 19,000 teacher aides in Queensland. Tomorrow we celebrate their hard work on World Teachers' Day. I want to acknowledge and thank all teachers across our state. I am sure that nearly everyone here in this House is proud of a loved one or member of their family who is a teacher. In my case, it is my sister Maria.

**Dr Lynham:** Great teacher!

**Ms GRACE:** I will take that interjection from the Minister for State Development because my sister taught one of his sons, which is great. State, Catholic and independent school teachers in Queensland have received a World Teachers' Day ribbon—which I am wearing—that they can wear with pride. Some Queensland landmarks, including the Brisbane Story Bridge, will be lit up in the World Teachers' Day colours of purple, green and blue to mark the occasion—sorry, to mark the occasion.

**Honourable members:** Ha, ha!

**Ms GRACE:** That was a Freudian slip, Mr Speaker, and appropriate too.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Be careful, Minister; we will get out the red pen.

**Ms GRACE:** I am on the teacher's speaking path. The Palaszczuk government firmly believes that teaching is a highly valued profession, and we know that having quality teachers in our classrooms means a bright future for Queensland students. Every day I encourage students thinking about joining the profession to do so. We are delivering on our election commitment to employ an additional 3,700 teachers over four years, and in this year's budget we added 1,000 additional teachers and over 200 extra teacher aides to cater for increased enrolments in our Queensland state schools.

We are not only hiring new teachers across Queensland but we are also investing in programs to upskill and support existing teachers in every corner of the state. We are creating opportunities for professional learning for teachers and mentoring and coaching teachers in the regions so that Queensland children are equipped with the skills needed for the jobs of the future. We are committed to lifting the status of teaching as a profession in this state to ensure that those teachers who want to enjoy a long and rewarding career at the front of the classroom are able to do so and are paid accordingly. That is why I am proud that we settled an agreement for our hardworking teachers that delivers decent pay and conditions, with teachers overwhelmingly supporting the agreement with an 89 per cent 'yes' vote.

This landmark agreement acknowledges the work that teachers do every day in every classroom in every Queensland state school. Tomorrow, when all parliamentary members return to their electorates, I encourage them to go out and thank their local teachers and celebrate the important work they do in giving every child a great start.