




Speech By
Hon. Grace Grace

MEMBER FOR MCCONNEL

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations, Professional Qualifications

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations) (4.45 pm): I rise to make a ministerial statement. I wish to correct the record in relation to the baseless accusations of the opposition about my qualifications. I have said it before, and will say again, that the course I undertook at Harvard was at a high level. I have been forwarded an unsolicited email from a senior academic at the Harvard Law School sent to the *Courier-Mail* which is titled 'Correction to recent reporting on Grace Grace and Harvard Trade Union Program'. The email states—

Hello Steven Wardill,

Sorry to trouble you. But your recent articles have misspelled the first name of Alida Castillo, who currently directs the Harvard Trade Union Program.

Some journalists care about accuracy, so I thought I would let you know in case there is a mechanism for corrections at your paper.

I recognize this was an unintentional mistake, and you try hard to get things right.

PS. I realize you are not asking, but if anyone in Australia cares to know

I have taught for over two decades in the Harvard Trade Union Program, and I can tell you it is no picnic for the labor leaders.

It is hard work, and the academic level is at a high standard.

Yes, it is not a degree granting program (though some people enrolled in Masters degree Labor Studies programs elsewhere have received significant academic credit for their work in the Harvard Trade Union Program).

When Grace Grace did the program, some of the leading U.S. intellectuals taught in the program not only Noam Chomsky but also possibly the most famous economist in the USA John Kenneth Galbraith and the most important figure in the U.S. industrial relations John T. Dunlop, who previously served as a U.S. Secretary of Labor and was a core faculty member of the HTUP for some sixty years.

John Trumbour

Research Director

Labour and Worklife Program

Harvard Law School.

This email supports the fact that the course was at a high level and that the important work undertaken during the program was at a masters/graduate diploma level. I have never said that I have a masters degree or a graduate diploma. I have never put any letters behind my name.

It is embarrassing for the member for Kawana, it is embarrassing for the opposition, and it is embarrassing for this parliament that a senior academic from an internationally renowned university has taken the extraordinary step of writing not only to me but also to Steven Wardill to uphold the integrity of his institution and program.

This is another example of the opposition overreaching on baseless accusations to besmirch my name and the good character of the Palaszczuk Labor government.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Whiting): Order!

Ms GRACE: I ask the member for Kawana and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition who only this afternoon—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members, I did call order. Thank you.

Ms GRACE: You may smile.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister, you as well. Please resume.

Ms GRACE: I ask the member for Kawana and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition to immediately apologise, or the Leader of the Opposition should come in here and show some leadership and apologise on their behalf, but I will not hold my breath.