




Speech By
Hon. Grace Grace

MEMBER FOR MCCONNEL

Record of Proceedings, 26 November 2020

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Education System

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (10.02 am): It is great to be back! At last month's election Queenslanders gave their clear endorsement for the work the Palaszczuk government has done in our education system. Of course, there is always more to be done. As a government we remain committed to ensuring every Queensland child and every young person has access to a world-class education that nurtures a lifelong passion for learning and enhances their wellbeing. We are building quality infrastructure for Queensland's growing communities, including nine new schools over the next three years.

Over the next four years we will deliver on more than 400 commitments made during the election to meet the needs of every Queensland school community. We are boosting our record investment in school infrastructure by an additional \$1 billion over four years to deliver the largest ever portfolio of construction and improvement works in Queensland's history. This will include new school halls, performing arts centres and classrooms for the growing student population; planning for new schools in growth areas; upgrades of essential school infrastructure such as tuckshops, amenity blocks and playgrounds; improved access for students with disability through a range of projects aimed at making sure every school is an inclusive school; and new funding for capital works in non-state schools.

Our Local Schools, Local Jobs initiative will make sure every student has the skills for jobs of the future. This initiative will provide \$45 million to build and upgrade training facilities in state schools across Queensland, equipping secondary students with the skills they need to secure their future. Importantly, this will give students the skills they need to grow their careers in the industries that are critical to their local community, whether that be train manufacturing in Maryborough, aquaculture in Rockhampton, hydrogen in Gladstone or aviation in Hendra.

Our teachers and teacher aides are the foundation of our world-class education system and responding to growth and demand in state schools continues to be a priority for the Palaszczuk government. More than 6,190 new teachers and 1,135 new teacher aides will be employed in state schools across Queensland over the next four years. To make sure we have a pipeline of quality teaching candidates, we will support aspiring teachers to complete their teaching qualification by investing \$20 million in the new Turn to Teaching internship program.

This government also understands the pressures and challenges facing our students, particularly since the COVID-19 health pandemic. We have committed to a \$100 million plan to support student wellbeing that includes employing additional health and wellbeing professionals in state schools and a pilot of general practitioners in 20 state schools. Queenslanders overwhelmingly endorsed the Palaszczuk government providing a world-class education in our great state for the next generation over the past five years and we are committed to continue to do so for four more years.