




Speech By
Brittany Lauga

MEMBER FOR KEPPEL

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ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

 **Ms LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (5.37 pm), continuing: Prior to the adjournment of this debate last sitting week, I was talking about my mum as a teacher in our Queensland state schools and how she is a creative soul and how integrating art, colour, language, storytelling, cutting, pasting and discovery of our world through science in her pedagogy is what she is so good at. Teamed with her teaching partner of 25 years, Mrs Flamank, they are a formidable force. Mrs Flamank, thank you for being my mum's partner in teaching our young people. I acknowledge Mrs Flamank's husband, the late Mr Ian Flamank, another much loved teacher who will always be remembered for his dedication to young people. Because of their long partnership as a teaching team, my mum and Mrs Flamank work like a well-oiled machine.

I take this opportunity to acknowledge the education minister, the member for McConnel. Minister Grace is a wonderful boss. She is a great mentor and I enjoy learning from her and working alongside her. While I am on my feet, I acknowledge all the teachers across Queensland and wish them a very belated World Teachers' Day. It was World Teachers' Day in the week when I started this speech in the parliament. Teachers are amazing and I am constantly impressed by the dedication, passion and determination of the teachers I meet right across this state to give every student a great education. As the old Japanese proverb says, 'Better than a thousand days of diligent study is one day with a great teacher.'

At the last election we made a series of commitments all designed to ensure that we continue to give our students a world-class education that sets them up for a great future. That includes a \$1 billion boost to education infrastructure investment over the next four years. My dream is right across Queensland to have state-of-the-art teaching and learning spaces in well-resourced, safe and happy schools for every student, every teacher, every parent, every teacher aide, every school cleaner and every single person in the school community.

Following my reappointment as Assistant Minister for Education, Minister Grace has set out a number of projects for me to sink my teeth into including overseeing the rollout of the Palaszczuk government's Local Schools Local Jobs plan, overseeing outside school hours care and also chairing the new Trade to Teach Working Group. I am extremely excited about our government's \$45 million Local Schools Local Jobs plan, which will upgrade training facilities in 26 secondary schools across the state and prepare students with the skills they need to move into secure, well-paid jobs in their local region. Skilling young Queenslanders is essential to ensure that our youngest and brightest minds are prepared for the jobs of tomorrow and Queensland's economic recovery.

The Local Schools Local Jobs plan includes investments like \$2 million for Gladstone State High School to upgrade training facilities to prepare students for jobs in the hydrogen industry; \$2.25 million for Woodcrest Secondary College to upgrade trade training facilities to prepare students for jobs in aviation engineering; and \$2.5 million for Rockhampton State High School to build an aquaculture training and research facility to prepare students for jobs in this fast-growing food industry, which I know school principal Kirsten Dwyer is very excited about. Local Schools Local Jobs will deliver modern

facilities across Queensland that teachers, parents and students can be proud of. I am proud that over the next four years we will deliver close to 6,200 new teachers in classrooms across the state and 1,100 new teacher aides to meet student enrolment growth and maintain our nation-leading teacher-to-student ratios and class sizes.

On top of the existing student numbers each year, we are seeing 8,000 additional students enrolling in Queensland state schools every year. That means that we need to build more schools and classrooms but we also need to urgently train and employ more teachers and teacher aides. The Palaszczuk government's Turn to Teaching Internship Program to support 300 aspiring teachers to launch their teaching career in Queensland state schools, new homework centres in 120 schools and giving girls and young women free access to sanitary products are all part and parcel of this Labor government's clear plan and vision for the next three years and beyond for public education in Queensland.

The last election victory for Labor in Keppel could not have been achieved without the passion and dedication of so many good Labor people in Central Queensland. There was one night in October last year, just days before the election, when I had 10 volunteers sprawled around my little house—at the table, on the couch, on Odette's swing or on the grass under the Hills Hoist—all there making phone calls to Keppel constituents. We called thousands of people that night, having important conversations with Keppel locals about the important choice they had at the election. When we finished for the night, I cooked a barbie. I do love to barbecue, and it was just absolutely brilliant sitting around the table, like family, sharing a meal after talking with people right across Keppel about why we wanted to see Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk and Labor elected again.

I thank my family—my clever, beautiful, talented, cheeky and headstrong four-year old Odette Mary Lauga. My darling, I love you so much and I am sorry I had so many yucky meetings that I had to be at in the lead-up to the election. I hope that one day you will get to read this and know that the sacrifices you and I both make is all to make a difference and change the world. I thank my mum and dad, Peter and Sharon, mostly for looking after Odette when I was not able to but also for all of their love and support. I thank my brother, Lewis, as well.

I thank my hardworking and passionate Keppel electorate office staff—John, Thelma and Annette. Each of them have been with me working in the Keppel electorate office for about six years now. I thank the Keppel SEC president Bruce Craig; Yeppoon branch president Sue Smith; Emu Park branch president Bruce Craig; North Rockhampton branch president Jason Conway; pre-poll booth captain David Thomas and all of our amazing volunteers—Harrison Pocknee, Andrew Churchill, Rachael Dixon, John Hempseed, Bryce Allen, Deb Wynne, Elizabeth Luckel, Rhonda Nielsen, Hugh and Yvonne Chardon, Tom Hall, Ernie O'Sullivan, Michael Page, Sandra Briggs, Graham Brewitt, Tony Harris, Sara Dunn, Cody O'Dell, Dylan Denise Lacy, Greg Moore and Rhonda Mallory, who we sadly lost recently. Rhonda, thank you for everything you did throughout your life to support me and Labor.

I also thank the amazing Jesse Gillard, a wonderful friend and mentor. He said to me once that he really believes in me and that I have a kind of magic that makes him believe in me. I thank him for the new 'ideas whiteboard' that is in my outdoor area that I use on a daily basis now when talking about those ideas and generating those ideas. I thank state secretary Jules Campbell and everyone who helped to bring Labor back in Keppel at the last state election.