



Speech By  
**Hon. Grace Grace**


**MEMBER FOR MCCONNEL**

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Record of Proceedings, 23 March 2021

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Education, Respectful Relationships**

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (9.51 am): I urge all school communities to be safe and to look at the website for updates on schools that are closed.

Two weeks ago in this House I announced that the Palaszczuk government would be working across all government and non-government school sectors to examine whether the Australian curriculum and the Department of Education's Respectful Relationships education program adequately address the issue of sexual consent and reporting in Queensland schools.

Last Monday I was proud to stand with the Premier, ministers and MPs outside this House to support thousands of brave women marching through the streets of Brisbane to say enough is enough. We stand also with the female MPs in this House who have bravely come forward with their own confronting experiences. I join the Premier in saying you are not alone. This issue is now clearly on the national agenda, particularly following disturbing reports last night on the news and on *Four Corners* about grossly deplorable conduct in our federal parliament.

I am pleased to report to the House that the first steps have been undertaken with the recently announced education review. However, I must emphasise that families and society also have an important role to play. I have met directly with the Catholic and independent school leaders to discuss ways to work together to strengthen education on consent and reporting in all Queensland schools. In addition, my director-general has written to principal associations, unions, peak parent bodies and the QCAA seeking their input and involvement.

I am writing to my federal counterpart, Minister Alan Tudge, to request consent and reporting education be placed on the agenda of the education ministers' meeting on 30 April and that the national curriculum body, ACARA, work with the states to ensure strong, consistent content is included within the Australian curriculum. I am also writing to my Ministerial Student Advisory Council to seek their views ahead of our meeting in May. The department's existing Respectful Relationships Education Advisory Group is being stood up to provide their input.

Last week I spoke with Chanel Contos, who published the Teach Us Consent petition. I congratulated Chanel on her advocacy and discussed with her what we are doing here in Queensland and encouraged her to participate in the review. I look forward to reporting on key milestones which form part of the department's education consent and reporting review plan. It is vital that we get this right. I join the Premier in saying enough is enough.