



Speech By  
**Hon. Grace Grace**


**MEMBER FOR MCCONNEL**

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Record of Proceedings, 22 April 2021

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Queensland Certificate of Education**

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (9.47 am): As we know, the first young Queenslanders graduated last year in a new Queensland Certificate of Education system with Australian Tertiary Admission Ranks, or ATAR. These resilient young people have been pioneers throughout their school years as the state's first full cohort of prep students, the first year 7s to attend high school, and the first to complete year 12 and receive an ATAR last year during a global pandemic.

A total of 45,188 students achieved a QCE; 26,042 students also received an ATAR; 1,003 students received a Certificate of Individual Achievement; 31,716 completed vocational education and training qualifications, including the very successful Queensland school based apprenticeships and traineeships; more than 630 achieved an International Baccalaureate Diploma; and 1,193 students studied university subjects at school.

The Queensland Curriculum Assessment Authority has today recognised the highest achieving 38 students with QCE awards. They are our next generation of scientists, engineers, artificial intelligence designers and doctors. They include amazing young people like Rani Carmichael, who graduated from Brisbane State High School and is studying a Bachelor of Veterinary Science, Honours, at the University of Queensland. Rani has won the QCE award for being the highest achieving Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander student. She says she is inspired by many people including her Aboriginal maternal ancestors who, in her own words, 'survived and overcame countless hardships, allowing me to access the opportunities I have today'.

Then there is Isaac Beh from Warwick State High School who is studying a Bachelor of Mathematics and Science at UQ and is inspired by Socrates. Isaac is a QCE Distinguished Achiever and would like to thank his family, teachers and all the authors of good textbooks as he works towards a career in statistics and analysis. Good luck, Isaac! Also among the high achievers is engineering honours student Lucia Rega, an All Hallows' graduate who wants to become a mechatronic engineer.

Queensland's highest academic achiever is Vishaak Gangasandra, currently studying biotechnology and medicine at UQ after graduating from The Southport School. Vishaak achieved straight As in seven senior subjects, including an overall mark of 100 per cent in English, mathematics and physics—an outstanding result. He is well deserving of our congratulations on his academic achievements.

The QCAA is publishing online the results of our class of 2020 today, reported this year in a way that provides important state-level data with a focus on individual students' achievements. This approach to reporting student outcomes has been endorsed by the SATE Implementation Taskforce and the QCAA Board. It is in line with the reporting practices in other states and by resolution of the Education Council. These amazing young people are Queensland's future. In their hands, the future looks bright.