



Speech By  
**Hon. Grace Grace**


**MEMBER FOR MCCONNEL**

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Record of Proceedings, 13 May 2021

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **After-School Homework Centres**

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (9.43 am): Homework is an important part of every child's education, although I know many students may not agree. Any parent will tell you how much of a challenge it can be to find the time to help their children get their homework done. During the state election, we committed to establish free after-school homework centres at 120 state primary and secondary schools across Queensland. Our new homework centres will provide a supervised, supportive setting for students to complete their homework before they go home at the end of the day.

I am pleased to announce that from today schools can apply to have one of these centres, with the first to be operating for term 3 beginning in July this year. Applications will be assessed by regional panels against criteria including services already available, capacity at the school and local needs. The realisation of our election commitment sees us investing \$8 million over four years to establish these centres. Centres will be funded to operate for up to three hours per week, 30 weeks a year during term time and individual schools will be able to design the model that best suits their community.

The free homework centres will be able to support up to 24 students per session and will be supervised by onsite wonderful teacher aides. These centres will provide a supportive, supervised learning environment and will support good study habits for students and additional learning time for students with their peers, boost student engagement and achievement and provide the help that parents may not have the time or skills to give.

The centres will also assist parents who may need more flexible working arrangements as our economy recovers from the COVID-19 health pandemic. This initiative builds upon our strong record of backing our students with all the support they need to reach their full potential. The new homework centres will make a simple but real difference in children's education and the everyday lives of Queensland families. I encourage parents to talk to their schools and P&Cs about putting in an application for their own homework centre. This is another addition to the Palaszczuk government's proud record of investing in the education of Queensland students because they deserve no less.