




Speech By
Hon. Grace Grace

MEMBER FOR MCCONNEL

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Budget, Education

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (9.50 am): I am thrilled to announce a record \$15.3 billion state budget investment in schools and early childhood education to continue to deliver for Queensland children and students from Far North Queensland to the Gold Coast. Included in this is almost \$1.9 billion in infrastructure spending to maintain, renew and build new facilities, including 10 new schools—all part of Queensland's economic plan for recovery.

Our \$913 million investment for the 10 new schools to open in 2023 and 2024 will see six new primary schools at Augustine Heights in Jordan, at Ripley in Ipswich, at Bellbird Park in Bundamba, at Yarrabilba in Logan, at Logan Reserve in Waterford and at Redland Bay in Redlands. There will be four new high schools at Palmview in Buderim, at Springfield in Jordan, in the Logan Reserve-Park Ridge area and at Redbank Plains in Bundamba. These new schools add to the 18 we have delivered since 2015. Four others are underway at Caloundra South, Coomera, North Maclean and in Brisbane's inner west.

This education budget is a down payment on Queensland's future. It will create thousands of jobs to drive our economic recovery post COVID and in the longer term, and is an investment in Queensland's future workforce and leaders in our schools and early childhood centres. This is the seventh record investment in education and continues our proud record of giving children a great start and engaging young people in learning no matter where they live.

This budget locks in four years of funding to provide ongoing, universal access to kindergarten for Queensland children—an investment of around \$203 million. This means funding for kindergartens of more than \$187 million in the 2021-22 budget so that Queensland families will continue to be able to access affordable, quality kindergarten programs no matter what their life circumstance.

Setting our students up for success begins before they start school and our early childhood, education and care networks play a vital role in supporting young Queenslanders. The education budget will provide for at least 1,240 new teachers, in addition to the 1,131 new teachers already employed last year; \$14 million in 2021-22 towards a \$100 million three-year student wellbeing package to provide every Queensland state school student with access to a wellbeing professional and to pilot GPs in 20 state secondary schools; and more than \$23 million to deliver on the 2020 election commitment to build and upgrade training facilities at schools. This is a budget that continues to deliver for Queensland children and students now and into the future.