



Speech By  
**Hon. Grace Grace**

**MEMBER FOR MCCONNEL**

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Record of Proceedings, 31 August 2021

**APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL**

**APPROPRIATION BILL**

**Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)**

**Appropriation Bill**

**Education, Employment and Training Committee, Report**

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (4.32 pm): Thank you, Deputy Speaker. Wait your turn!

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Ms GRACE:** Just listen to them.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Last time I checked, the Speaker retains the right to make the call. If you want to move a dissenting motion on that you are welcome to. I call the member for McConnel.

**Ms GRACE:** Thank you, Deputy Speaker. Listen to them. They are worse than kids in a classroom, honestly and truly. If they would only grow up it would be very good. I commend the Education, Employment and Training Committee for its budget estimate's report. I acknowledge the work of the chair, the member for Redlands, who did an excellent job, and the members of the committee, along with the Clerk and the parliamentary staff. The 2021-22 budget is delivering another record education budget with a \$15.3 billion investment in schools and early education. Importantly, as the Queensland government seeks to rebuild our economy, we are spending almost \$1.9 billion in schools in this financial year, including 10 new schools in 2023 and 2024, as well as supporting over 4,000 jobs for the state. These schools add to the 18 we have already delivered. I look forward to delivering those schools and the other schools which are first rate and most certainly are state-of-the-art.

The budget also features a \$235 million halls program which will deliver new and upgraded halls at 37 schools, supporting 775 jobs. It is always interesting to hear those opposite. They go on about a hall in their electorate, but they did not go to the election with one hall, with one infrastructure discussion at all. There was no plan.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member for McConnel is misleading the House. I take personal offence. I ask the minister to withdraw because she knows full well that Kilcoy State High School hall was taken to the election, amongst others.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Resume your seat. I have taken your point of order. The taking of a point of order is not an opportunity to debate. Personal offence has been taken. The member has asked you to withdraw. I ask the minister to withdraw.

**Ms GRACE:** I withdraw, but we went with a \$235 million halls program. I do not recall any comprehensive halls program from those opposite. Maybe one hall here, maybe one hall there, but no comprehensive halls program. Let us see them take offence over that one. We are upgrading training facilities at 27 schools. The opposition spokesperson on education, the member for Moggill, talked about student wellbeing. We saw nothing in their election promises. We are rolling out a \$100 million student wellbeing program. We are already employing specialists in schools. We have a GP program in schools. We want to trial 20 and we have 50. We are looking to see what we can do to help the mental health and wellbeing of students. We are rolling out homework centres at 120 schools. Applications are in and we are rolling it out to help students in primary and high schools to get across their homework and to do better at school. It was great to visit Darra and to see their homework centre in action and those little kiddies loving every single second of it.

We are employing 6,190 new teachers and 1,135 new teacher aides and providing \$20 million to help boost our teaching profession. I know that the member for Bundaberg and other former teachers and principals in this place very much welcome that. Our \$20 million Turn to Teaching program will offer internships and we will guarantee 300 people a job after they undertake that program. We have included extra money for early childhood education and care. What we are delivering in education is excellent. We have responded time and time again to questions with regard to asbestos. No-one takes asbestos more seriously than this side of the House. No matter how many times, whether it is through estimates or in this House, we answer the same questions over and over again, those opposite only hear what they want to hear but they do not hear the truth.

In relation to the racing industry, we are delivering around \$41.3 million over two years with a 35 per cent guaranteed point-of-consumption tax now going back into the industry. We will be ensuring that that is invested in local infrastructure and in prize money. The racing industry has welcomed this with open arms.

In industrial relations we have a proud record with some of the best industrial laws in the state, with leading industrial manslaughter laws, health and safety laws, wage theft laws—the list goes on and on. It is almost getting to the point where the opposition spokesperson on industrial relations is harassing the public servants who work hard. Not one of the allegations raised by the member for Kawana has been substantiated. I feel for Helen Burgess, who he keeps writing about. Not one case that has been raised by those opposite has been substantiated. Trespass charges against union officials have been thrown out of court and upheld by the Supreme Court. Right-of-entry disputes between Enco and the CFMMEU have been dismissed in the first instance. Enco have been fined because of the manner in which they injured their workers. That is the truth. That is the way it works. We get nothing from those opposite but baseless allegations.