



Speech By  
**Hon. Grace Grace**


**MEMBER FOR MCCONNEL**

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## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Kindy Uplift Pilot Program**

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (9.54 am): Can I start by giving a special shout-out to all our wonderful early childhood educators on what is Early Childhood Educators Day. The Palaszczuk government is committed to ensuring all children get a great start in life, no matter their circumstances, and this includes ensuring they have access to a quality kindergarten program in the year before school. We know the benefits that flow from kindergarten and early education. However, we also know not all kindy kids arrive at the kindy gate with the same capability levels. We want to ensure that all kids have the support they need to reach their full potential so I am delighted today to announce the Palaszczuk government's \$40 million Kindy Uplift Pilot Program.

Kindy Uplift will provide extra support for vulnerable and disadvantaged children at more than 400 kindies across the state. The pilot will commence next year and will deliver a targeted, needs based program for kindy kids and build the capacity of providers to support them. I invite all members to join me at today's official launch at midday on the Green Deck on level 7 of the Parliamentary Annexe. I look forward to meeting with the kids, parents and staff from Kambu Amaroo Kindergarten in Silkstone in the electorate of Ipswich who will be attending the launch.

Kindy Uplift aims to help around 13,500 Queensland children each year with a range of kindy programs focusing on five targeted improvement areas: oral and language communication, processing information and responding, physicality, social and emotional capability and access and inclusion. For example, funding could be used to introduce a wellbeing support program for kids who are doing it tough. Kindy Uplift is an exciting program, trialling a model of additional resources and early supports for kids who need it most. Kindy Uplift is part of the Palaszczuk government's commitment to the wellbeing of our children, with targeted early support for kids and communities. Our Queensland kindy kids deserve no less.