



Speech By  
**Hon. Grace Grace**


**MEMBER FOR MCCONNEL**

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Record of Proceedings, 16 September 2021

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **GPs in Schools; Student Wellbeing Package**

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (10.17 am): The Palaszczuk government is acutely aware of the challenges facing our students and their mental health. Students are worried about their families, their studies and the future. COVID-19 has only exacerbated these worries. It is important that students know that easily accessible support is available if and when they need it. That is why at the last election we announced our nation-leading \$100 million Student Wellbeing Package. The package will give every student in every state primary and secondary school access to a psychologist or other health and wellbeing professional.

Our commitment also included a pilot program of GPs in state high schools. The program is modelled on the highly successful Mabel Park State High School GP clinic, which has been running since 2019 in the Attorney-General's electorate of Waterford. The original pilot was intended for 20 schools, but following the great interest we had from schools through our recent EOI application process, I am delighted to join the Premier in announcing today that the pilot program will be expanded to cover 50 state high schools.

The Premier's announcement means 50 schools will now receive funding to establish a GP clinic at their school and provide a free GP service for students one day a week. The 50 schools selected for the pilot will be finalised by the end of this month. It is anticipated the GP clinics will be up and running in all pilot schools in the first half of 2022.

Providing students with access to timely free health care will have a positive impact on students' health, mental health and their readiness and ability to engage at school. We want to ensure as many students as possible can benefit. It builds on the proud record of the Palaszczuk government when it comes to student safety and wellbeing. This includes opening Jacaranda Place and our regional youth engagement hubs to support secondary students at risk. We will continue to back our students with all the support they need to reach their full potential. I look forward to visiting school GP clinics to see these benefits firsthand.