




Speech By
Hon. Grace Grace

MEMBER FOR MCCONNEL

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ADJOURNMENT

McConnel Electorate, Live Music Venues

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (7.17 pm): McConnel would have to be one of the best electorates in this state. Before I get any arguments from the 92 other members in this House, I say that that is largely because of the wonderful restaurants, the live music scene and venues I have not only in Fortitude Valley but spread right across the McConnel electorate. The Palaszczuk government had a firm commitment to assist artists and live music venues to make sure that as we kept Queenslanders safe and grew the economy, jobs and the economic base these venues went from strength to strength. Of the *Courier-Mail's* 20 nominated best restaurants, 18 of those are in the electorate of McConnel. If members want a good restaurant, come to McConnel and they will be wined and dined in some of the best restaurants that Brisbane and Queensland has to offer.

The live music venue support that we as a government have been able to give is around \$60 million. A lot of that has come into the electorate of McConnel. Music venues like the Woolly Mammoth, The Zoo, the Tivoli theatre, The Triffid and the Fortitude Valley Music Hall received financial support so that when we opened up people could go back into clubs, which is unique to Queensland, and dance on their dance floors and enjoy the live music scene. This has seen them through and they have delivered a fantastic product that young people enjoy.

There are also some of our emerging smaller capacity venues such as Brooklyn Standard, the Tomcat bar and O'Sculligans, just to mention a few. These venues have received altogether—I thank the arts minister—around \$22.5 million, and around \$2 million has been spent in the electorate of McConnel. This has been of great assistance to these venues. As we know, international artists have not been able to travel here and national artists have had trouble travelling from Sydney or Victoria. Many live music venues had to cancel shows because artists could not come into the state. Luckily, as we open up—hopefully on 17 December—this assistance that we have given these businesses, particularly in the seat of McConnel, will put them in good stead to be able to deliver a quality product.

Queenslanders deserve to see their lives return to normal. It has been a long, hard road. Some of these businesses have done it tough, but they have met the challenge. We have been able to assist them financially. I look forward to making sure that when we do open up on 17 December these venues are in a position, through government assistance, to be able to offer the quality live music venues that they have been all along.