




Speech By
Hon. Grace Grace

MEMBER FOR MCCONNEL

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

GPs in Schools; Student Wellbeing

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (9.49 am): The Palaszczuk government is getting on with the job of implementing the \$100 million student wellbeing package we took to the last election to provide students with free access to health and wellbeing professionals at their school. As part of this package, the Premier and I recently announced the expanded list of 50 schools that will take part in the GPs in Schools pilot program. These schools are busy getting things ready for next year. This includes using \$20,000 per school provided through the pilot to make the necessary infrastructure changes to establish a fit-for-purpose clinic at their school.

As part of the pilot, GPs will also receive funding to assist in the smooth and effective running of the clinic. This includes employing a clinic nurse to work with the GP and provide extra support to the students. The inclusion of the clinic nurse role was based on the successful experience of Mabel Park State High School, which has had a GP and a clinic nurse in place for some time now. Pilot schools also receive funding to employ an administrative person to manage appointments and oversee the waiting room. Some schools are planning to start their GP from the start of the new school year including Murgon State High—the Premier and I visited their welfare centre and it is truly outstanding—Maryborough State High, Ipswich State High and Woodridge State High, with all 50 anticipated to be in place by May 2022.

In relation to the other component of the wellbeing package, I am delighted to report that the first new psychologists are now employed and working in Queensland schools. Recently I had the pleasure of visiting Meridan State College in the electorate of Kawana—I know the member's children go to Meridan—where psychologist Robyn Flemming is based. Robyn is one of seven new psychologists—the member for Kawana's children are benefiting from this service, of course only if they require it—now working in primary, secondary and special schools and in the north coast region at Tin Can Bay, Agnes Water, Conondale and Coolum. We also have psychologists and other wellbeing professionals now working in Central Queensland, Far North Queensland and metropolitan regions.

Over the next three years we will be employing an additional 464 health and wellbeing professionals—mainly psychologists—so that every child in every state school has access to support when they need it. Having support available will make a real tangible difference to the mental health and wellbeing of our students. This is particularly welcome given the challenges our students have experienced during COVID. This is yet another way in which the Palaszczuk government is supporting our students to reach their full potential.

Mr Speaker, members of parliament have received an early Christmas present in the form of the farm safety calendar for 2022 with illustrations from students in primary schools right throughout Queensland. I hope members hang it proudly in their homes or in their offices. It is a great calendar.