




Speech By
Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Olympic and Paralympic Games, Athletes

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (9.49 am): Our investment in infrastructure is only part of our Olympic preparation; we are also investing in our people. Perhaps our biggest motivation for securing the games is to bring within reach the dream of competing in them. Starting in April we will launch the biggest talent search Australia has ever seen. Coaches will travel the length and breadth of Queensland, searching for 50,000 young athletes.

Today's 10-year-old is 2032's Olympian or Paralympian. Coaches and talent scouts will work with them to see who has the physical and mental strength to 'go for gold'. Eventually, they will join the Queensland Academy of Sport, the funding for which has been doubled to \$29.3 million. That includes a \$9.8 million state-of-the-art sports science centre that I am proud to say accommodates both Olympians and Paralympians. Our You for 2032 program aims to make the best even better. Our secret weapon is Ms Chelsea Warr, the architect of Great Britain's transformation that turned its athletes into world-beaters.

As I say as often as possible, if Queensland were a country we would have finished seventh in the medal count in Tokyo. In Beijing, Jakara Anthony, from tropical Cairns, won gold in the women's moguls competition, having perfected her moves at the Geoff Henke Olympic Winter Training Centre at Chandler. Jaclyn Narracot won silver in the skeleton, which is Australia's first-ever medal in an event of its type. If that is what we can do without snow, imagine what we will achieve in 2032.