



Speech By  
**Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk**


**MEMBER FOR INALA**

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Record of Proceedings, 23 February 2022

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

### Kindergarten

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (9.40 am): Every child deserves to have the best possible start in life. Today I am proud to announce the largest investment in kindergarten in Queensland's history. We will invest more than \$1 billion to give Queensland kids the best start in life. We will provide free or cheaper kindy to more than 40,000 Queensland children. Over five years we will deliver: \$33 million to expand our Kindy Uplift program from 400 services to 930 services; \$38.5 million to help remote and regional kindergartens attract and retain teachers; \$95 million for children with disabilities; and we will increase our annual investment in kindy from \$130 million to \$211 million. These reforms will kick in at the start of 2023. They mean that by next year a family with one child at kindy could save about \$3,200 per year, a family with two kindergarten aged children could save around \$6,400 and 14,000 children will access kindy for free.

Under my government more children are attending kindergarten in Queensland than ever before. Currently we subsidise kindy for 20,000 children across the state. The kindergarten participation rate has soared from 77 per cent in 2015, when we came to office, to 96 per cent today. That is a great achievement not only for our government but also for families. There is no doubt that kindy counts. The lessons children learn in their early years can set them up for life. I want kindy in Queensland to be not only world-class but also accessible and affordable for all.

These are the issues that matter to families across our state. There are thousands of Queenslanders who, through no fault of their own, find it difficult to make ends meet and struggle to afford kindergarten. As a Labor government we absolutely believe in equality and fairness, and this is absolutely going to be a proud legacy of our government. Well done to our Minister for Education.

The cost of kindy is a huge barrier for many children and a great burden for many working families across our state. I want to break down those barriers and give every child a chance to achieve their dreams. Social justice, equality, a fair go for all: those are core Labor values. They are the values that set us apart from those opposite. We will always invest in education because that is what good Labor governments do best. I cannot wait to see more children start kindy in 2023.