



Speech By  
**Dr Christian Rowan**


**MEMBER FOR MOGGILL**

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**PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENT**

**Minister for Education, Performance**

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (2.37 pm): The Christmas season is fast approaching and the 2022 school year is coming to a close, and I know that all members of the House will wish all students all of the best for the holiday season. The final report cards for Queensland students are being sent home, but it is really the 2022 report card and performance of the Labor Minister for Education that I am most interested in, so let us have a recap of this year. There was absolute and utter chaos, confusion, panic and dysfunction when mixed messages from the Premier and the Labor Minister for Education saw school closures, with parents across South-East Queensland rushing to collect their children from school, and that was due to the poorly communicated emergency management advice at the time. In times of natural disaster we need clear, calm and consistent messaging. It is absolutely vital that is passed on.

Also throughout this year there has been no shortage of damning reports, official findings and examples of sheer incompetence which have highlighted how our education system in Queensland is continuing to suffer and being let down due to the poor oversight and administration and failures of the state Labor government. Let us have a look at that. The Labor state government's own budget papers this year revealed that not a single educational target across years 3, 5, 7 and 9 in reading, writing and numeracy was achieved, and that is in its own budget papers! Further, educational targets for Queensland's First Nations students were not met, with substantially lower outcomes being achieved in First Nations communities when compared to other students across Queensland. The state Labor government should be absolutely ashamed of this, yet we hear no comprehensive strategy to address the decline in these educational outcomes, particularly in First Nations communities.

This year's state budget estimates also underscored the questionable figures and accounting that the Labor state government communicates when it comes to the true nature of problematic teacher workforce capacity. As was revealed in a recent committee hearing, the department does not even ask teachers why they are leaving our education system when one would think that this metric would be important for the government.

The excuses and rubbery explanations from the Labor government regarding teacher workforce staffing and capacity is, frankly, embarrassing. Throughout the year our hardworking teachers and staff have continued to be let down by a state Labor government that has no comprehensive plan or realistic measurable targets to decrease the rising violence and disruption in our schools and, in turn, regain control of teacher and staff safety within our schools. The Queensland Auditor-General reported this year a cost blowout of more than \$23 million when it came to just two school infrastructure projects alone. This has all occurred under the Labor government. These are very deeply concerning failures that we are seeing here. Student outcomes are suffering and parents, teachers and staff have been abandoned by this Labor government. In the spirit of Christmas, I wish the Minister for Education all the best with her homework over the holiday period—I am happy to offer her tuition—as we look to a happy and healthy 2023.