




Speech By
Hon. Grace Grace

MEMBER FOR MCCONNEL

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (10.16 am): Tomorrow, 18 March, around 1,700 state, Catholic and independent schools across Queensland will participate in the National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence under the theme 'Kindness Culture'. I am proud to say that almost every single Queensland state school is registered to participate—much higher than the 66 per cent average across Australia. It is great to see many members wearing their ribbons today too. The irony that it is also St Patrick's Day does not escape me. Happy St Patrick's Day everyone and happy birthday Minister Stewart.

Now in its 12th year, I am proud that Queensland continues to be the lead jurisdiction and coordinates the national day of action on behalf of all states and territories. The national day of action is an important opportunity for school communities to rally together and take a stand against this insidious issue.

We know that new technologies can bring new challenges, and the Palaszczuk government is leading the nation in response to cyberbullying. We are implementing all 29 recommendations of our Anti-Cyberbullying Taskforce—the first of its kind in Australia—and have committed \$3.5 million towards their implementation. Through my Ministerial Student Advisory Council, I have heard from students firsthand the impacts of bullying on mental health and wellbeing.

The slogan 'Bullying. No way!' is a clear message to students. There is zero tolerance for this behaviour in our schools and help is available. Our \$100 million Student Wellbeing Package and GPs in Schools Pilot are providing students with free and easy access to qualified health and wellbeing professionals at their school. Over the next three years, we will be employing an additional 464 health and wellbeing professionals, mainly psychologists. There are already around 65 employed in our schools and all 50 GPs in schools are on track for May.

Tomorrow, I will be joining Minister Furner at Newmarket State School to unveil a mural in their assembly area that depicts what kindness culture means for their school. The artwork will serve as an important reminder to be kind to one another—

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Ms GRACE: Be kind, member for Kawana. The artwork will serve as an important reminder to be kind to one another each and every day, not just this one day of the year.

Mr Bleijie: Remember I saved you with a bottle of water! Remember the water I rushed to you?

Ms GRACE: I will take the interjections from the member for Kawana. I will say again: be kind, member for Kawana.

We will also see landmarks across Queensland light up orange to mark the national day of action including Suncorp Stadium, the Qantas Founders Museum at Longreach, which was wonderful—we had a great visit there to Longreach—Dreamworld and Brisbane City Hall, just to name a few.

We all have a role to play—even the member for Kawana. I encourage all members to take part in their school activities tomorrow—even the member for Kawana—for the National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence. Be kind, member for Kawana. Bullying. No way!