




Speech By
Hon. Grace Grace

MEMBER FOR MCCONNEL

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Budget, Education

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (9.55 am): Like the Premier and the Treasurer, I am so proud that the Palaszczuk government delivered yet another record-breaking \$16.5 billion education budget yesterday. We know healthy and happy kids learn better at school, which is why I welcomed the biggest investment in the health and mental health of Queenslanders in our state's history. However, it is not just our direct record investment in health that is going to make a difference. Labor governments love health and education, and in education we are delivering projects and policies that improve the health and wellbeing of our youngest Queenslanders.

There is a \$100 million Go for Gold sports infrastructure fund, which will get thousands of kids active and healthy, some of whom will hopefully represent us at the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Our \$183 million specialist classroom renewal will deliver state-of-the-art learning spaces including for home ec., which sets our kids up for so many career paths and provides vital health and wellbeing skills. I am looking forward to seeing the upgrades to home ec. spaces at schools including Keppel Sands State School and Bell State School in Callide. An amount of \$20 million for playground and tuckshop upgrades will also bring healthier eating and better play equipment to students right across the state, and what a difference that will make.

There is more than \$80 million—I am so proud—to support schools to transition to a game-changing new resourcing model for students with a disability. I look forward to sharing more about this incredibly important work in the House tomorrow. Our work on Respectful Relationships will get a \$15.5 million boost, so teachers are well equipped to support students in this important area of healthy relationships.

We are already delivering our \$100 million health and wellbeing plan that is bringing GPs, psychologists and other mental health and wellbeing professionals into our schools in addition to what we announced yesterday. These specific programs are life-changing, but our broader approach to record investments in health and education makes a huge difference because we know that getting the right start in life can have a big impact on our future health and happiness. We also continued to invest heavily in kindergarten as part of our \$1 billion kindergarten reform package because we know how important early education is to set our students up for success at school, in life and in their careers.

Good jobs, better services and investing in a healthy community is a big win for our state's future and the future of young Queenslanders. That is what Labor governments do.