




Speech By
Hon. Grace Grace

MEMBER FOR MCCONNEL

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Education, Disability Support

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (9.51 am): Our mission as a proud Labor government is to deliver a world-class education that allows every student to reach their full potential—no matter where they live in the state, no matter their life circumstances or background. I have listened to the heartfelt views of many parents and organisations about the need for a new way of resourcing schools to support students with disability. As the Premier has said this morning, I am delighted that, as part of our record \$16.5 billion education budget, we have announced a game-changing shift in the way we fund schools to support students living with disability.

In 2023 we will start to phase out our current resourcing model, with the new model to be fully implemented by 2025. The new model completes the government's implementation of all 17 recommendations from the 2017 independent review of education for students with disability in Queensland state schools. The current system is based on six prescribed types of disability only. We will be moving to a model that is based on the level of support and adjustment that a child needs to participate in education. This means that for the first time all disabilities will be formally recognised and supported including dyslexia, ADHD, fetal alcohol syndrome, Tourette syndrome and mental health conditions. While schools already support these students, there will now be more dedicated resources available.

Other benefits of the new model include dedicated support for an extra 30,000 students with disability; a focus on prep students to give them a great start; a new Extensive Plus resourcing category for students with the most intensive needs; and an easier, streamlined, single process for families without the need for additional medical or specialist reports. It is a major change, and schools will need time to adjust to the new way of gathering and recording information for the new resourcing model.

We do not want any school or student to miss out on support while the transition is taking place. That is why we are investing \$80.6 million over the next two years. This money will fund almost 500 new frontline positions through a combination of new staff and increasing hours of existing staff to support students, and to provide continuity and certainty, until the new model is fully implemented. This is great news for students, families and schools. Do not just take my word for it. Queensland Association of Special Education Leaders President Ric Day said—

This new funding model is sharply focused on students' needs and will ensure resources are allocated to more students with disability, based on reasonable adjustments.

Queensland Association of State School Principals President Mr Pat Murphy said—

These changes will lead to long term educational, social, and economic benefits for the state. The additional resourcing provides Queensland school leaders with certainty so that as schools transition to an enhanced funding formula no student will lose funding.

This is a game changer for students with disability to participate fully in education on the same basis as their peers—another great Labor reform.