




Speech By
Hon. Grace Grace

MEMBER FOR MCCONNELL

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Budget, Education

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (9.49 am): I would like to start by wishing all of our school communities, students and staff, a happy last day of term, and I hope they enjoy a well-deserved break in the upcoming holidays.

Improving education for all students continues to be a major focus for all of us on this side of the House, and at the centre of this is increasing the number of teachers and teacher aides and improving school infrastructure for our kids and teachers, especially in our discrete Indigenous communities. Isn't it great, Mr Speaker, that we have air-conditioned every classroom, every staffroom and every library!

In the budget we have announced a \$43.2 million renewal program for schools in all 18 discrete communities so that education facilities can be refurbished and renewed. This is a targeted renewal program where projects will be co-designed with local communities so that the best outcomes for all are achieved. Schools in Aurukun, Cherbourg, Coen, Kowanyama, Napranum, Woorabinda and Yarrabah, just to name a few, will benefit from this investment.

I will also mention our ongoing support for the Achieving Results Through Indigenous Education program—or ARTIE, as it is affectionately known—with a \$5.6 million investment in this budget. ARTIE, which operates in 37 state primary and secondary schools, provides an opportunity to participate in programs that encourage improvements in school attendance, behaviour, academic achievement, effort and ultimately year 12 attainment or its equivalent. ARTIE is just one of our partnerships to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students' attendance, engagement and success alongside Stars Foundation, Clontarf Academy, Netball Queensland's Diamond Spirit program and the Brisbane Broncos.

As we know, the ARTIE program was named in honour of the late Artie Beetson, so hopefully our ongoing support of the program inspired the Maroons to their wonderful victory a couple of Wednesdays ago. If it did, let's hope that inspiration continues for the second game on Saturday.

An honourable member: Sunday!

Ms GRACE: I actually had Sunday, Mr Speaker.

Dr Miles: And the women tonight.

Ms GRACE: And the women tonight, of course, as the Premier mentioned.

Dr Miles: Go the Maroons!

Ms GRACE: Go the Maroons! And the second game on Sunday, Mr Speaker, as per my text. And the third game, Mr Speaker. And the next season.