




Speech By
Hon. Grace Grace

MEMBER FOR MCCONNEL

Record of Proceedings, 30 August 2022

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Trade to Teach

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (9.50 am): In the same week that the nation debates our future jobs and skills needs in Canberra, I am delighted to announce today a new \$10 million Trade to Teach pilot program which will support tradespeople to transition to a career in teaching. It is part of the Queensland Workforce Strategy. We know that good jobs are key to better services and enhancing our great lifestyle here in Queensland, and that is why the Palaszczuk government is stepping up and delivering.

The Trade to Teach internship pilot program is designed to boost the number of ITD—industrial technology and design—teachers in Queensland state secondary schools and, in doing so, help build the pipeline of skilled trade workers to meet our future workforce needs. Modelled on our nation-leading Turn to Teaching program, Trade to Teach is an earn-and-learn model where tradespeople receive financial support, income, mentoring and classroom teaching experience while completing their teaching degree. Thirty eligible tradespeople will receive a \$20,000 scholarship in their first year of study and a paid internship while teaching part-time in a school for the remaining years of their initial teacher education undergraduate degree. The intake of 30 tradespeople will start their teaching degree in 2023, commence as interns from 2024 and be permanently employed and teaching in the classroom in 2027.

This is a great opportunity for people with a trade qualification who want to pass on their knowledge and passion for their trade to now make the switch to teaching. Importantly, while the pilot is designed to address teaching shortages in ITD, it will also help address a critical need for industry in Queensland which is crying out for workers with trade skills, which the industry partners we are working with have greatly welcomed. This is about ensuring more quality ITD teachers and the future supply of skilled tradespeople in industries such as resources, engineering, mining, fabrication and construction.

I would like to sincerely thank my Assistant Minister for Education, the member for Keppel, as chair of the Trade to Teach working group, as well as all members of the working group, who have been the driving force behind this exciting new internship program. I encourage tradespeople to register their interest via the Teach Queensland website.

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind everyone that our public servants work hard for the people of Queensland every single day. Over the last week, some have been made to feel unsafe at work through the unacceptable actions of some CFMEU members and by people who harassed—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members!

Ms GRACE: I do not find that funny at all. I am not sure why we are getting laughter from those opposite.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members to my left! The Deputy Leader of the Opposition will cease his interjections.

Ms GRACE: And by people who harassed and threatened Department of Education staff following disciplinary decisions. I want to make one thing clear: these actions are totally unacceptable and the Palaszczuk government strongly condemns them.