




Speech By
Hon. Grace Grace

MEMBER FOR MCCONNEL

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Education, Investment

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (9.49 am): The Palaszczuk government is committed to ensuring our students get the skills they need to thrive in their local industries and local communities. Yesterday I advised the House that the Palaszczuk government is investing \$10 million in our new Trade to Teach pilot program as part of our Workforce Strategy.

Tradies will receive extensive support while completing their full teaching degree and students will get the opportunity to specialise in the skills that will set them up for good, secure jobs in the industries local to them. Industry, union and school peak bodies have welcomed this fantastic announcement. Queensland Resources Council policy director Katrina-Lee Jones, who was instrumental in establishing the working group, said—

With plenty of jobs in trades, we want to provide students with an interest in becoming trades qualified, an opportunity to build up their skills in the classroom.

Mark Breckenridge, President of the Queensland Secondary Principals' Association, said—

This will make a significant difference across regional Queensland, enabling students to pursue industry pathways at school and then transition into employment within their local area.

In addition, our Contemporary Specialist Spaces program is a four-year, \$180 million funding boost for 36 schools which will focus on learning spaces for the delivery of specialist subjects. For example, the \$13 million ITD precinct at Gladstone State High School will help support students transition from school to local jobs. There are upgrades like this throughout the state, including a \$16 million upgrade of manual arts facilities at Holland Park State High School in Greenslopes and a \$6.5 million refurbishment of the manual arts space at Kenmore State High School in Moggill.

We know that facilities are important, but the links with local industries are vital. That is why, as part of the Queensland Workforce strategy, we are strengthening school-to-work transition with a regional school industry partnership manager appointed in each region and expanding our successful Gateway to Industry Schools program as well.

Our Careers Capability Development Grants Program is also helping schools prepare our students for the workplaces of the future. This program has provided grants to 25 Queensland state schools, such as Marsden State High School which is providing a taste of different workplaces using virtual reality. Under the Palaszczuk government, we want students to have access to good jobs, better services and a great lifestyle in whichever part of our great state they call home.