




Speech By
Hon. Grace Grace

MEMBER FOR MCCONNEL

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Teachers and Teacher Aides

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (10.28 am): Our teachers and teacher aides are the foundation of the world-class education system we have here in Queensland, delivering the knowledge students need for a great future, including the students in the gallery. As this week is Australian Teacher Aide Appreciation Week, I am sure the House will join me in giving a special shout-out to the hardworking teacher aides and the wonderful work that they do.

The winners of the Australian Teacher Aide of the Year awards have been announced this morning. Let me be one of the first to congratulate the teacher aide team at Tallebudgera State School in the electorate of Currumbin—I am sure the member joins with me—because they have been named the Australian Teacher Aide Team of the Year. Congratulations!

We want more teachers and teacher aides in our schools. Our \$20 million Turn to Teaching program provides financial support and paid internships to aspiring teachers so they can earn as they learn with a guaranteed permanent position in a Queensland school. This program is for up to 300 people, with the first cohort of 55 participants now well into their first year of the two-year program. We want to at least double that number for the 2023 intake. Applications are now open. More information is available on SmartJobs, LinkedIn, Seek and the Teach Queensland webpage and through our partners, QUT, Griffith and USQ.

It is a great opportunity. For example, Zac, who was placed at Burnside State High School in the electorate of Nicklin, came from the construction industry and will soon be an engineering teacher. He says it is not just the financial support that the program offers that makes it so great but also the support provided from other like-minded professionals making a career change. Erika is training to teach Spanish and special education—not Italian, Leader of the Opposition, unfortunately, but Spanish is great too—and is completing a placement at Pimpama State College in Coomera after being encouraged by her daughters to share her passion for languages. Glen will be an ITD teacher and is at Kedron State High School in the electorate of Clayfield. He says his experience has reinforced that he has made a great career decision and he is grateful to the team at Turn to Teaching and Education Queensland for the opportunity that he is now getting.

Already there are more than 1,300 people registered to attend the Teach Queensland Career Fair happening at the Brisbane Convention Centre this Saturday. Who knows, maybe some of them will walk out of there with a great teaching job. My message for any aspiring teacher is that Queensland is the place to be—come on board. Students, what a great career teaching is. If you are thinking of what you want to do when you leave school, become a teacher. It is a great profession.