



Speech By  
**Hon. Grace Grace**


**MEMBER FOR MCCONNEL**

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Record of Proceedings, 14 October 2022

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Education, Equity and Excellence**

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (9.48 am): On Tuesday it was my pleasure to open the Queensland State School Principal Conference 2022. Around 1,400 state school principals and senior education leaders travelled from the Torres Strait, Townsville, Toowoomba—from right across Queensland—for the first in-person conference since 2019. It was an absolutely fantastic event. I want to place on record my thanks to all those involved in making it happen.

At the conference, I announced targeted consultation would begin on our exciting vision for the future of education in Queensland: Equity and Excellence, realising the potential of every student. Equity and Excellence is a vision of a high-performing contemporary education system that is unashamedly focused on learning outcomes and ensures that no child is left behind.

While this has always been our ambition, COVID meant the last few years have required a more reactive approach, focused on logistics, RATs and keeping our students and staff safe. This is an opportunity to refresh and refocus. The Palaszczuk government has always delivered record-breaking investment for our youngest Queenslanders, including \$1 billion to reduce the price of kindy, around \$10 billion into state school infrastructure since 2015—we have air-conditioned every school in Queensland—a game changing resourcing model for students with disability and a \$100 million wellbeing program bringing psychologists and GPs into our schools, to name just a few.

Equity and Excellence is all about building on these achievements and ensuring the best possible opportunities are offered to every single student in every single state school. Proposals include: educational precincts where schools can share resources and collaborate more closely; a virtual academy that beams specialist teaching expertise to even the most remote parts of our state; and the new Educational Futures Institute that elevates the professional development of our school leaders and teachers. Targeted consultation with principals, schools and stakeholders has now begun, and the Equity and Excellence strategy is expected to be finalised ahead of term 1, 2023.

At the conference I also announced the winners of our annual Showcase Awards for Excellence in Schools. For more than 20 years these awards have celebrated the excellent teaching, leadership and educational practices occurring in Queensland state schools. The state winners, as well as the regional winners and commendation recipients, share \$166,000 in grants in 2022 to further support their initiatives. If members want to see the winners, they are on the website. I offer my congratulations and best wishes to them all, and thank them for the amazing things they do for our students every single day. I look forward to our vision for equity and excellence in Queensland state schools right across this great state.