



Speech By  
**Hon. Grace Grace**


**MEMBER FOR MCCONNEL**

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Record of Proceedings, 25 October 2022

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **State Education**

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (9.51 am): This week is State Education Week. I am sure that every member in this House will join me in placing on record their appreciation for our teachers, principals, support staff and P&Cs—our entire school communities—who make a huge difference to the lives of Queensland students. They truly are the foundation of the world-class education system we have here in Queensland, setting up our children for a great future. The Palaszczuk government is proud of our investment in state schools, ensuring there are good jobs and even better services for communities right across Queensland.

State Education Week culminates in the celebration of World Teachers' Day on Friday. Throughout the week, many landmarks across the state will be lit up in purple, blue and green, including Brisbane City Hall and the Story Bridge, the Court House gallery in Cairns and the Wharton Reef lighthouse in Townsville.

We know what a difference education and teachers make. That is why between 2015 and 2020 the Palaszczuk government employed more than 6,000 new teachers and 1,500 teacher aides, putting downward pressure on class sizes and helping to ensure we have among the lowest student-to-teacher ratios in the country. At the last election we made a commitment to employ 6,190 new teachers over four years. We are on track to meet that, with around 3,500 so far. We also made a commitment to employ 1,139 new teacher aides. We have already met that target, with more than 1,300 new teacher aides since 2020.

Our innovative \$20 million Turn to Teaching initiative is currently employing 50 aspiring teachers in targeted subject areas to complete a teaching qualification and undertake paid internship employment, finishing with a guaranteed permanent position in a Queensland state school. I am proud to say that we have already received 370 applications for our second round. Our Trade to Teach program, starting next year, for trade professionals looking to make the transition to teaching has attracted over 150 applications. The Palaszczuk government is also investing \$80 million over the next two years to fund around 500 frontline positions as part of the transition to our new, game-changing disability resourcing model.

We know that our teachers deserve more than our thanks, and I am pleased to inform the House that the negotiations on our excellent enterprise bargaining are finalised, with the ballot opening on 8 November. It includes some of the highest pay increases and best working conditions for teachers in the country. The Palaszczuk government is proud to deliver for our teachers, for our schools and for our students.