



Speech By  
**Hon. Grace Grace**


**MEMBER FOR MCCONNEL**

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Record of Proceedings, 27 October 2022

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Public Sector, Wages Policy**

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (9.47 am): I also acknowledge members of the Jewish community in the gallery. The Palaszczuk government is proud of our record in leading the nation when it comes to a wide range of reforms concerning Queensland workers, and we are proud to lead the nation on wages and conditions of public sector workers. Our government deeply values the crucial roles our public sector workers play, especially those who provide frontline services to the Queensland community. We are committed to ensuring that Queensland's public sector workers are provided with fair and reasonable wages, especially those on lower rates of pay.

I am pleased to advise the House that the government has settled its wages policy for this enterprise bargaining round. This new wages policy is leading amongst all Australian jurisdictions. Together with the cumulative wage increases delivered by the Palaszczuk government since 2015, we are delivering the highest public sector increases in the country. The new policy includes three-year agreements with headline increases of four per cent in the first year, four per cent in the second year and three per cent in the third year. The Palaszczuk government recognises the current cost-of-living pressures facing Queensland workers, including those employed in our public sector. That is why the wages policy also includes a cost-of-living adjustment of up to three per cent additional where, in an agreement year, the relevant consumer price index measure exceeds the headline wage increase percentage. This is an important safeguard during these uncertain inflationary economic times.

I am pleased to also inform the House that we have finalised negotiations for a number of key frontline public sector agreements. These include agreements covering nurses and midwives, teachers and the Queensland Police Service, and final certification processes are now underway. In addition to the wages policy, our government has also embarked on superannuation enhancements for public sector workers relating to changes to the superannuation guarantee. This once again demonstrates the Palaszczuk government's commitment to our public sector workforce and, importantly, ensures we remain an employer of choice.