



Speech By  
**Hon. Grace Grace**


**MEMBER FOR MCCONNEL**

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Record of Proceedings, 8 November 2022

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Kindergarten**

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (9.51 am): Nothing is more important than giving our kids a great start in life. We all know that education is the key. That is why the Palaszczuk government is committed to providing better kindy services right across Queensland. I was delighted to recently visit the Lady Gowrie Love Street Child Centre—in the heart of my electorate—to announce the final details of our Kindy for All program. It is an investment of more than \$1 billion over five years—the most significant funding reform and boost for kindergarten in Queensland in a decade.

We know the research points to all the benefits of a quality kindergarten program for children in the year before school. Teachers regularly tell me the difference they see at school between those students who have been to kindy and those who have not. We all know that cost can present a significant barrier to enrolling in kindy, particularly for families doing it tough in the current inflationary environment. I do not want to see any child miss out. That is why the centrepiece of Kindy for All is free or cheaper kindy for more than 40,000 Queensland families, delivering real cost-of-living relief from the start of next year.

Like the federal government childcare plan, this is targeted—supported with an economic dividend. It is the perfect trifecta—good for families, good for children and good for the economy, particularly in supporting women and working parents to return to work. At Love Street I met three-year-old Advait. He is starting kindy next year, and it will be totally free. His father, Amol, said—

It's a relief for our family to know we can give him the opportunity to learn, play and make friends at kindy without worrying about the cost.

Cost-of-living support is just one part of Kindy for All. It is about good jobs too. We are boosting funding for up to 300 remote and regional kindy services to help them attract and retain early childhood teachers—such as providing relocation and accommodation assistance. We are expanding our successful Kindy Uplift pilot—providing targeted support to help children thrive at kindergarten. We have extra funding for disability and inclusion support—almost \$100 million over five years.

I encourage families to jump on our new Kindy Savings website. In a few simple steps, people can find out how much they will save. This is yet another way the Palaszczuk government is delivering for Queensland families and giving our kids a great kindy start.