



Speech By  
**Hon. Grace Grace**


**MEMBER FOR MCCONNEL**

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Record of Proceedings, 9 November 2022

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Workplace Health and Safety; Farm Safety Calendar**

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (9.53 am): The Palaszczuk government will always ensure Queenslanders have access to good, safe jobs, which is why we have a strong framework of workplace health and safety laws, regulations and codes of practice to set minimum safety standards for Queensland workplaces. I am proud to advise the House that we have finalised two new landmark codes of practice, one on psychological health and the other on tackling silica dust exposure in the construction industry.

Our *Managing the risk of psychosocial hazards at work: code of practice 2022* is Australia's first legally enforceable code of practice and regulations directly addressing psychological health risks at work. The code provides a practical guide for employers and workers to help them understand their rights and responsibilities after a national review found that many employers were unsure of their duties to manage psychological health and safety risks at work. This code has been welcomed by a range of stakeholders, including Master Builders, the QCU and mental health experts. Dr Kirsten Way, an organisational psychology expert at the University of Queensland, even described it as a watershed moment.

Our code of practice to tackle silica dust exposure in the construction industry is also an Australian first. It follows on from our nation-leading stone benchtop code in 2019. The code will apply to all construction work in Queensland as well as the manufacturing of materials such as bricks, blocks, tiles, mortar and concrete and it will protect workers from dangerous levels of silica dust.

These landmark regulation changes and codes of practice were developed through extensive consultation with academics, unions, employer organisations and the community. I thank all those involved for helping to make Queensland workers safer.

There is another group I want to thank and that is the 1,500 primary school students who entered their colourful masterpieces in this year's Farm Safety Calendar competition. Each work of art submitted carries a powerful safety message. Congratulations to the 12 entries in the 2023 calendar. The winners will each receive a \$250 voucher and another \$500 voucher for their school. I already have my calendar and I hope everyone appreciates that I have provided a copy to every member of the House to hang proudly on the wall at their home or in their workplace. Again, congratulations to the winners and a big thankyou to the students who entered.