




Speech By
Hon. Grace Grace

MEMBER FOR MCCONNEL

Record of Proceedings, 30 November 2022

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Public Service, Enterprise Bargaining Agreements; Early Childhood Education and Care

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (9.46 am): The results are in and the answer is yes, yes and yes. Our valued public servants are overwhelmingly supporting our new enterprise bargaining agreements that deliver some of the best pay and conditions in the country: nurses and midwives, 92 per cent yes; teachers, 94 per cent yes; and police, 98 per cent yes. That is more than 115,000 Queenslanders who are giving resounding support to our 11 per cent pay rises over three years as well as cost-of-living adjustment payments up to three per cent. This will make our public sector some of the best paid in the nation, delivering good jobs and better services.

We are delivering for regional and remote Queensland. We will look after the Nationals. Our new teachers agreement includes increased incentives to attract and retain teachers in regional, remote and rural locations. For example, if a beginner teacher chooses to head to Georgetown State School in the Gulf Country in the electorate of Traeger to start their career, they will now take home over \$86,000 per annum compared to \$78,000 for their counterparts in the city. Throw in additional entitlements, like housing assistance, funded flights home and an increased travel allowance for dependents, and it is a great deal.

We are also working on a national teacher workforce action plan, building on our current plan, and I am looking forward to the meeting of education ministers in Perth in December. We are addressing similar issues in our critical early childhood workforce. Our new \$1 billion Kindy for All package provides additional guaranteed minimum funding for over 350 kindergarten services in regional and remote areas to assist in attracting and retaining qualified early childhood teachers. This \$38.5 million investment will allow services to offer things like above-award wages, relocation costs and subsidised rent. Sessional kindergartens will also receive additional funding which means services in areas like Townsville and Cairns will receive a guaranteed minimum of over \$16,000 to fund these important initiatives and services in very remote areas like Charleville will receive over \$61,000.

Every day our public servants make a difference to the lives of Queenslanders. The Palaszczuk government will continue to stand up and back them all the way.