



Speech By  
**Hon. Grace Grace**


**MEMBER FOR MCCONNEL**

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Record of Proceedings, 2 December 2022

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Asbestos Awareness Week; Education**

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (9.46 am): I say hello to Jordan, Minister Linard's son, in the gallery. Last week, I was privileged to be able to attend the Asbestos Disease Support 2022 thank you event held in the heart of my electorate at Victoria Park as part of Asbestos Awareness Week. Two special guests were our safety advocates, Don and Julie Sager, who tragically lost their son to mesothelioma when he was 25 due to inadvertent exposure to asbestos when he was a toddler. They now visit Queensland workers to speak to people about the consequences of exposure to asbestos. We also have produced a film with them titled *Losing Breath: the Adam Sager Story* which has been viewed more than 52 times. I pay tribute to them and the contribution they are making to asbestos safety.

This event was extra special because it marked the 30th anniversary of the Asbestos Disease Support Society. I take this opportunity to congratulate the society and to thank the outgoing general manager Trevor Torrens for his hard work. I am proud of the reforms the Palaszczuk government has made in this area such as a reclassification of low density fibreboard to friable, together with our updated statewide strategic plan for the safe management of asbestos which was released last month.

The final day of term 2 for many state school students is one week today but for some it is already over. Later this morning I will be meeting 35 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students who have finished Year 12 at Kirwan State High School in Townsville and have gone through the Clontarf program. Clontarf started at Kirwan in 2017 with just five Year 12 students. To see 35 today is a fantastic achievement.

In another acknowledgement, Dr Lee-Anne Perry AM has announced she is standing down as the executive director of the Queensland Catholic Education Commission. She began her teaching career at St Patrick's College in Townsville in 1979 and has made an outstanding contribution to education in Queensland ever since. She was the first lay principal of All Hallows, Queensland's oldest Catholic secondary school; in fact, it is my old school in the heart of my electorate. It has been another outstanding year in Queensland education. This has seen our staff, students and school communities rise to the occasion once again. To each of you on behalf of the Palaszczuk government, we say thank you and merry Christmas.