




Speech By
Hon. Grace Grace

MEMBER FOR MCCONNEL

Record of Proceedings, 18 April 2023

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Turn to Teaching

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (9.55 am): Our teachers and teacher aides are the foundation of the world-class education system we have here in Queensland, setting up our kids for a great future and economic advantage. No doubt there are challenges that are being felt across the country in terms of attraction and retention, but we are leading the way in Queensland to support our existing teachers and recruit more into what is a wonderful profession and vocation.

Our new enterprise bargaining agreement is delivering some of the best wages and conditions for teachers in the country. We are delivering on our election commitments to employ over 6,100 new teachers and over 1,100 teacher aides in our schools, with over 4,500 teachers and 1,700 teacher aides already employed. We are making great strides with innovative programs like Turn to Teaching. The Turn to Teaching program aims to employ and support 300 aspiring teachers with financial support, mentoring, a paid internship and a guaranteed permanent position in a Queensland school at the end of the two-year masters program. The first 2022 cohort of 41 are now in schools across the state from the Gold Coast to Gladstone, from Cloncurry to Cairns, completing their paid internship as part of the second year of the program. Our second cohort of 109 has just started their first year of study, and later this year we will be advertising for the third intake to start in 2024.

I met Callum Morrison, one of our interns who was teaching science and biology at Kirwan State High School in Thuringowa. It was fantastic to see how much he enjoyed sharing his knowledge with the students. Novi Ong at Milton State School in Maiwar said, 'Turn to Teaching is a great program for those looking to change career into the teaching profession.' James Dickson, who left the minerals industry to teach biology, science and geography in your electorate, Acting Speaker, at Coorparoo Secondary College, said, 'I highly encourage anyone who is looking at a career change or believes they have something to offer the next generation to jump on board.' Alex, also at Coorparoo Secondary College said, 'After lots of thought on changing careers the Turn to Teaching internship was the final push I needed to jump into my teaching career.' The OECD education report that was released last week also singled out Turn to Teaching for special mention as a positive program to get teachers in the classroom.

The Palaszczuk government will always back our teachers. My message for any aspiring teachers out there is to check it out and come on board.