




Speech By
Hon. Grace Grace

MEMBER FOR MCCONNEL

Record of Proceedings, 19 April 2023

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

State Schools, Disability Resourcing

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (9.51 am): Our mission as a proud Labor government is to deliver a world-class education, as the Premier mentioned earlier, that allows every student to reach their full potential no matter where they live in this state, no matter their life's circumstances or background. A prime example of this is the support we provide to students with disability, to ensure that they can access and participate in education on the same basis as their peers. We currently invest around \$1.4 billion to support these students, and that is about to grow.

I am proud to say that 2023 has marked the start of our two-year transition to a game-changing new resourcing model to support students with disability. Already, 563 schools are receiving 25 per cent of their new funding and there is more to come next year. Already, 52 schools have transitioned to the new model and received 100 per cent of the increased funding—over \$22 million in extra funding, including 35 special schools in Beenleigh, Coomera, Gympie and Toowoomba West Special School in the electorate of Toowoomba North.

The number of students with disability receiving dedicated support will double from \$40,000 to \$80,000 a year. It is a fundamental shift in how support is provided with a focus moving from the current system based on six prescribed types of disability only to a model that is based on the level of support and adjustment that each individual student needs to participate in education.

A number of disabilities, including neurobehavioural disorders, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, foetal alcohol spectrum disorder, dyslexia and mental health conditions will be formally recognised for the first time. While schools already support these students, there will be more dedicated resources available. The new model will also provide an even higher level of resourcing in the prep year and ensure schools have the resources they need to provide supports early. We want to get in early. It is a big change for schools and that is why the Palaszczuk government's \$81 million investment will support schools to transition and plan for full implementation of the new model in 2025.

We have also released our new equity and excellence strategy and a new model will play a significant role in ensuring students with disability are supported to realise their potential in a high-performing education system. Students with disability have the right to participate fully in education—they deserve nothing less—and that is exactly what this new resourcing model will deliver, another great Palaszczuk government reform.