



Speech By  
**Hon. Grace Grace**


**MEMBER FOR MCCONNEL**

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Record of Proceedings, 10 May 2023

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Go for Gold Fund**

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (5.54 pm): I had the absolute pleasure of meeting former Olympian Carmel Bakurski this morning at the community breakfast on the beautiful Cairns Esplanade. Carmel was a member of the famous Hockeyroos team which competed at the Athens Olympic Games in 2004 and is now a teacher at the Cairns School of Distance Education. It was great to chat about her feats as an Olympian and, of course, her important role now teaching our distance education students.

I say how fitting it was because today it was fantastic to launch round 2 of our \$100 million Go for Gold Fund at Parramatta State School here in Cairns with hopefully some future Olympians. As we know, round 1 which provided funding for sports equipment is now closed with 680 successful schools, state and non-state schools, city and country schools, regional and remote schools. I know how much Parramatta State School is looking forward to receiving \$5,000 for new netball posts for their netball academy. It was great to watch a game this morning and also to shoot a few goals.

In terms of round 1, I can advise that over 70 schools in Cairns and the Far North Queensland region will receive over \$280,000 for new sports equipment.

**An honourable member** interjected.

**Ms GRACE:** It took me three tries to get one goal. As well as Parramatta State School, there is Miallo State School in Cook, \$1,000 for soccer and basketball equipment; Woree State High School in Mulgrave, \$5,000 for new gym equipment; and Redlynch State College in Barron River, \$3,000 for volleyball posts.

With the 2032 Olympic Games around nine years away, who knows where the next Ian Thorpe or Cathy Freeman may be. Round 2 is now open with \$93 million up for grabs, offering grants of up to \$5 million for new or upgraded school sports infrastructure projects. They can include multipurpose courts—I know I built many of those—synthetic pitches to facilitate athletics and field sports, refurbishment of outdoor court services, and oval upgrades. It is a Queensland-wide initiative and I am especially keen to see applications from our regional and remote schools so we can spread the funding as far and as widely as we can. This is a really exciting program that will make such a difference to so many students and local communities across Queensland.

I cannot wait for the applications to roll in and the sporting infrastructure to be delivered in our schools to support the Queensland medallists in 2032.