



Speech By  
**Hon. Grace Grace**


**MEMBER FOR MCCONNEL**

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## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

### Kindergarten

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (9.54 am): Since the start of 2023 the Palaszczuk government's Kindy for All program—\$1 billion plus investment over five years—has been delivering free or cheaper kindy for more than 40,000 Queensland families, providing real cost-of-living relief.

Last sitting I provided examples in and around Cairns of the families who are loving free kindy, and back in Brisbane we are hearing the same stories. At Durack C&K in Inala, for example, 39 families now have access to free kindergarten, saving them up to \$4,770 a year, or \$119 each week which goes back into their pocket. Amina, a parent at the centre, said—

Free Kindy means I don't have to worry about what kindy costs. I can use the savings towards other things to help my family.

Another parent from Durack, Ruta, whose son Aron is enrolled, said—

Free kindy is a huge support. The savings help with everyday items.

A parent at Albany Creek, in the electorate of Everton, Brittney, shared—

Being able to send our child to kindy, at no cost to us, is honestly the most amazing gift. We are very grateful.

In Townsville we heard of a single mother of two who wanted to return to work but the cost of kindy was a barrier. She said—

Now that I can access free kindy I can go back to work and have more money to give my children healthier meals for school and at home.

On the back of the great success of Kindy for All, we now want to explore the next step of free kindy for every Queensland family to help with the cost of living and ensure every child gets a great start. We currently have around 58,000 children at kindy. Under our Kindy for All program, 14,000 already receive it for free and another 26,000 receive reduced fees. However, there are another 8,000 kids who could be enrolled in kindy who are not.

For those who have gone to kindy, we know it makes a real difference when they start school. That is why we want every child in Queensland to experience these great benefits. It is time to close the gap. In racing parlance, I think it is a perfect trifecta: good for families, good for children and good for the economy, particularly in supporting working families.

As the Premier announced at the weekend, we want to know what Queenslanders think, particularly if cost is a barrier to sending their kids to kindy. Already we have received almost 700 formal responses and thousands of comments on social media. This is just another example of the Palaszczuk government listening to our hardworking Queensland families and providing significant cost-of-living relief.