




Speech By
Hon. Grace Grace

MEMBER FOR MCCONNEL

Record of Proceedings, 24 May 2023

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Student Wellbeing Package

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (9.51 am): Supporting the health and wellbeing of our students is fundamental to delivering a world-class education. During my recent trip to India I was aware of the interest in our health and wellbeing program, particularly with COVID closing schools in India for 12 months. They are very interested in visiting us to look at what we are delivering. I am always proud to talk about the investment the Palaszczuk government has made through its \$100 million-plus Student Wellbeing Package.

We now have 345 wellbeing professionals in our schools, including 138 psychologists, 119 social workers, 78 guidance officers and 10 youth workers. A key element of the package is our GPs in Schools pilot, supporting 50 Queensland state schools to provide their secondary students with free access to a GP at school. Members will recall that we went to the election with a commitment to have 20 schools with GPs but, given the level of interest, we have expanded the pilot and more than doubled our original commitment.

As of today, 46 schools across the state have now commenced providing a GP service to their students—from Charleville State High School in Warrego to Spinifex State College in Traeger and Helensvale State High School in Theodore. In 2022, students at participating schools attended a total of nearly 5,000 GP appointments—a fantastic outcome for our students—and 2023 has continued in the same vein. Students at Western Cape College in Weipa in the Cook electorate attended 120 appointments in term 1 this year. In one day alone, the GP had 23 appointments. This is all about ensuring students can access health care, free and in a timely manner, and the feedback we are getting shows it is valued equally by students, principals and the GPs alike. As the principal at Deception Bay State High School in Bancroft said—

The GP program in our school has provided a fantastic service for so many students, some of whom would have struggled to access medical support. This is particularly the case with our most at-risk students.

A student at the same school said—

Having the doctor at school gives me peace of mind and I can get in to see them quickly.

The GP at Murgon State High School in Nanango has reported—

The program feels like a place where you can really make a difference—even just by being a trusted adult to discuss things confidentially.

This is a nation-leading program delivering health and wellbeing services directly to our students and, as I found out on my recent trip to India, is an international-leading program. This is a game-changing initiative and, again, the Palaszczuk government is delivering better services for Queensland students and school communities no matter where they live.