



Speech By  
**Hon. Grace Grace**


**MEMBER FOR MCCONNEL**

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Record of Proceedings, 12 September 2023

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

### Trade to Teach; Turn to Teaching

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (9.52 am): Welcome back, Mr Speaker, and best wishes for your good health. Only the Palaszczuk government will always back our hardworking teachers. We are always looking at new and innovative ways to attract people from a variety of backgrounds to this wonderful profession. Last year we announced a \$10 million program to boost the number of industrial design and technology teachers by supporting tradies to become teachers in our Queensland state schools. We also want the program to ignite a passion for the trades in our young people and build the pipeline of skilled tradies we need for Queensland's record \$89 billion Big Build. Trade to Teach is based on our nation-leading Turn to Teaching program and is an earn-and-learn model. Our tradies get a \$20,000 scholarship, a paid internship with mentoring in classroom and a guaranteed permanent ITD teaching position specialising in a Queensland state secondary school when they complete the program. We have 38 participants in the pilot cohort. They have started their teaching degrees this year and will start in the classroom as an intern with half teaching load from 2024.

The feedback has been great. I am delighted to advise the House that the Palaszczuk government will invest an additional \$10 million to expand the program and invite even more tradies to make the change to teaching. Applications open today, and I encourage people to jump online and find out more. It really is an amazing opportunity. Here is what some of our current Trade to Teach cohort have to say. Alexander Manfield, a former boilermaker from Warwick, encourages people who are considering applying to, 'Go for it! It's a brilliant opportunity.' I notice the member for Gympie is in the House. Krystien Bennett, a plasterer from Gympie, says—

My grandfather had always inspired me when I was little; he was a great teacher with lots of patience. I promised my grandfather that I would pass on our knowledge to the next generation and teaching allows me to do this ... so I'm excited about the career change.

That is from a plasterer from Gympie—fantastic! Many tradies are looking for a physical and lifestyle change, and Dion Kingi, a carpenter and current participant from the Sunshine Coast, says Trade to Teach 'has been a godsend as I was looking to get off the tools or change career'.

The program is part of our Good People Good Jobs Queensland Workforce Strategy 2022-2032. I want to thank Minister Farmer and the former assistant education minister, the member for Keppel, for their important work on this program. I know my current assistant minister, the member for Mackay, will take on this role in her new position.

Trade to Teach is just one of many ways we are getting more teachers in the classroom, along with our new teacher aide pathway, our Turn to Teaching internship program and our excellent nation-leading EBA. Applications close on 2 October, so if you are a tradie with a passion for your craft and a desire to pass on your knowledge to the next generation, get online and apply today.