



Speech By  
**Hon. Grace Grace**


**MEMBER FOR MCCONNELL**

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Record of Proceedings, 14 September 2023

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Teacher Aides**

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (10.01 am): The Palaszczuk government knows that teacher aides play a vital role in our students' learning and wellbeing. I am sure that every member of this House knows of teacher aides in their local schools doing a wonderful job. Because of our investment, there are even more of them to appreciate—an additional 1,500 FTE teacher aides in our schools compared to 2015. Another 10 are coming soon, thanks to our new partnership with the NRL. It is no secret that Queenslanders love our Rugby League, particularly when it comes to this time of footy finals and can I say, 'Go Broncos!' Ten NRLW players will be recruited to part-time permanent additional teacher aide positions across nominated high schools, with those high schools then working with at least four primary schools each.

The presence of elite women players in our schools will not only inspire our female students but also carve out opportunities for athletes to enrol in further study and employment in the education sector once their career on the field is over. I launched a program alongside Destiny Brill, a Brisbane Broncos and Maroons player who works at Marsden State High School in Waterford. She said that she loves being a teacher aide, enjoys being involved in the school while she is playing and is excited about her opportunities after football. NRL school participation manager Andrew Peach said—

The NRL is excited to be able to support schools and teachers across Queensland, while also providing an outstanding career pathway for our elite female athletes.

On this side of the House we value our teacher aides. Our new teacher aide agreement—which 97 per cent voted in favour of—delivers nation-leading pay and conditions. We will also be delivering world-class professional development and wellbeing support programs for our teacher aides through our new Education Futures Institute. For those teacher aides who want to become teachers, we have a new supported pathway into teaching. Teacher aides employed in Queensland state schools who are doing their teaching degree will now receive special leave with pay to undertake exams and compulsory practical placements and, upon completion, will receive an offer of permanent employment. There will also be central funding for schools to meet the costs of backfilling positions while teacher aides are away. I can advise the House that 88 teacher aides working in our schools have already applied for this paid leave since I announced it last month. The Palaszczuk government backs our students, backs our schools and backs our teacher aides. I take this opportunity to wish everyone a very happy end of term 3 for tomorrow. Happy holidays to all.