




Speech By
Hon. Grace Grace

MEMBER FOR MCCONNEL

Record of Proceedings, 1 May 2024

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Public Sector

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for State Development and Infrastructure, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (9.58 am): When it comes to our hardworking public sector workers, there is no bigger supporter than the Miles government. We value the contribution of these workers, especially those on the front line such as our police officers, and back them with decent wages and conditions and with nation-leading work health and safety and workers compensation laws. This is in Labor's DNA. We are further backing our frontline police officers with an uplift of 900 police personnel over three years as part of our Community Safety Plan. This is part of our commitment to the front line by giving them the resources they need to keep our community safe and to ensure Queenslanders feel safe.

When it comes to ensuring Queensland's public sector workers receive wages and conditions that reflect their unique contributions, I could not be prouder of this government's record. We have delivered wage increases that are among some of the most generous of all Australian jurisdictions when it comes to the public sector. In addition, we included a cost-of-living adjustment payment in agreements in recognition of high inflationary conditions that peaked at 7.4 per cent in the 2023 March quarter. This resulted in public sector workers receiving an additional three per cent payment over the past year, including our police, nurses and midwives, teachers, doctors and firefighters. We have also made sure public sector workers will be set for a better retirement by enhancing superannuation entitlements.

With this week's focus on community safety it is worth acknowledging that through bargaining we have delivered for our police by: approving a late-night operational shift allowance; providing extra leave for officers who take on higher levels of weekend or public holiday shifts; providing rural and remote incentives to get more officers into the regions; and giving the right of non-commissioned officers to disconnect when they are not at work. Equally, we have delivered for workers in child safety, youth justice and youth detention centres, increasing operational allowances, training allowances, retention allowances and improvements in classification for entry-level positions. Our police, fires, ambos, child safety officers, correctional officers, workers in youth detention centres and other key frontline workers often encounter situations most of us could never imagine, so we have made it easier for these first responders who develop post-traumatic stress disorder, PTSD, by streamlining access to support and care under the state's presumptive workers compensation laws. On this side of the House we have a long and unsurpassed history of backing our hardworking public sector workers. They deserve nothing less.

I inform the House that the National Cabinet is currently meeting and the Premier is attending this meeting with all national leaders. National Cabinet is an important meeting to discuss issues of national significance, including a focus on the issue of domestic and family violence, as everyone in our community deserves to be safe and feel safe in their community and home.