

## Question on Notice

No. 435

Asked on 2 May 2018

**MR C WHITING** ASKED MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS (HON G GRACE)

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise how the Queensland Government is delivering a number of major educational reforms in Queensland which align to the Gonski Report?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Government welcomes the report, *Through Growth to Achievement: Report of the Review to Achieve Education Excellence in Australian Schools*, delivered by Mr David Gonski AC to the Australian Government in late March 2018.

The report outlines potential education reform priorities, with 23 recommendations across five areas: curriculum, student growth, teaching, school leadership, data and evidence. I am pleased to note the report's reform priorities align with many of the priorities and activities already underway in Queensland.

For example, Queensland has a strong commitment to the early years of schooling. *Advancing Education: An action plan for education in Queensland*, includes a focus on successful transitions and age-appropriate learning in Prep. Our schools are utilising a pedagogical framework that involves student-centred planning; evidence-based decision-making; and focuses on safe, supportive, connected and inclusive learning. To ensure every student is on track with early learning, our schools utilise the *Early Start* diagnostic tools to tailor support for students along their learning journey.

Our progress in early learning outcomes is evident through our students' strong achievement in recent National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) tests. Queensland is one of the most improved states since introduction of NAPLAN in 2008. Queensland's 2017 NAPLAN results are part of a long-term trend in lifting literacy and numeracy outcomes across the state.

We are also making great strides in the senior phase. In 2016, a senior certification (Queensland Certificate of Education [QCE] or Queensland Certificate of Individual Achievement [QCIA]) was awarded to 97.8% of Year 12 graduates, Queensland's best ever result. Results for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students were equally strong, with 97% of all students achieving a QCE or QCIA. This represents a closing of the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous students to its lowest level (0.8%), which is quite remarkable considering the gap was 13.2% in 2013.

These achievements have occurred while retention rates have been increasing. The Queensland Government is strongly committed to ensuring at-risk and disengaged students can continue their school education, by re-engaging thousands of young people in schooling through a variety of programs each year.

Queensland is also committed to supporting our teaching and school leadership workforce with the provision of mentoring support for beginning teachers by an experienced educator in a regular and structured way. For example, under Queensland's Mentoring Beginning Teachers program, all provisionally registered teachers with fewer than 200 days' teaching experience who are employed permanently or on a term-long contract in a Queensland state school, are matched with a mentor. School leaders are similarly supported through principal induction programs, *Take the Lead* and additional professional development support as they engage in the School Improvement Model.

The Palaszczuk Government is proud of the progress Queensland has achieved in lifting educational standards and delivering high quality education to Queensland students. Queensland has been a stand-out improver in terms of education results, as evidenced in our students' continuing strong improvement in literacy and numeracy, coupled with our strong Year 12 outcomes. This success has only been achieved because of the commitment and dedication of our teachers and support staff. It is vital that we ensure that federal school funding arrangements support the continued achievement of high education standards in Queensland schools.

Queensland is in the process of considering the Gonski recommendations in detail to determine what's right for education in Queensland. We will not rush into agreeing to reforms to our system until we are clear on the evidence base and that they are the right choices for Queensland schools and students. We will be advocating strongly for appropriate federal funding arrangements to ensure that Queensland students are not disadvantaged, that any agreed reforms build on the work Queensland is already doing to improve outcomes for our students and that any reform initiatives are funded appropriately.