A World Class Education
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Message from the Premier

Every young person deserves a quality education, no matter where they live.

Education provides a brighter future for our children, and now more than ever, students need to be ready to meet the demands of new industries, changing technology and global innovation.

That’s why my government is committed to an education system that provides students with the skills and knowledge to meet this challenge.

We are providing more opportunities for students to study science, technology, engineering and maths – including robotics and coding.

We are implementing the Digital Technologies curriculum, establishing a Coding Academy and virtual science, technology and mathematics academies for students in Years 5 to 9.

We are supporting our teachers throughout the state to be the best educators they can be.

Our plan recognises that literacy and numeracy are the foundation of learning for every child. Our statewide Reading Centre, which is linked to the Autism Hub, provides specialist advice for teachers and parents to support reading and learning.

We will lift outcomes for all students and deliver world class education.
Our Commitment

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to a world class education for every child and supporting quality teachers in every school.

A re-elected Palaszczuk Government will:

- Support children to get the best start to their education through free Playgroup Membership and better access to kindergarten
- Improve literacy and numeracy for every child including reintroducing the Ready Reading program
- Employ more than 3,700 new teachers over the next four years
- Provide four innovative Centres for Professional Learning and Wellbeing, opening first in Mt Isa and Roma
- Improve internet connectivity to teacher housing
- Inspire more students to study STEM through virtual STEM academies and the STEM Girl Power Camp
- Deliver the Digital Technologies curriculum – including coding and robotics – in all state schools
- Engage more children with disability in learning
- Roll out a new approach for senior secondary and tertiary entrance
- Actively re-engage disengaged or at risk youth in school and alternative education
- Employ up to 45 full-time additional instrumental music teachers in Queensland state schools over three years and provide an additional $1 million for the purchase of new loan instruments.
The Palaszczuk Government has restored the teachers cut from Queensland state schools while Tim Nicholls was Treasurer in the Newman-Nicholls Government.

As Treasurer, Tim Nicholls slashed more than 500 teaching positions from Queensland schools.

This decision put greater pressure on class sizes, robbed teachers of collaboration and preparation time and also meant there were fewer teachers in our schools to support students with learning difficulties and disabilities.

The Newman-Nicholls Government also sacked more than 700 education support staff including hundreds of IT and infrastructure roles from the Department of Education, putting service delivery under pressure.

Tim Nicholls, as Treasurer, cut the heart and soul out of Queensland state schools by axing a vital literacy program and threatened instrumental music programs including the nationally acclaimed Musically Outstanding Students (MOST) and Fanfare events.

Newman-Nicholls Government cut 500 teachers
The Palaszczuk Government’s Record

The Palaszczuk Government has invested in state schooling because we know a quality education changes lives for the better and supports a knowledge-based economy that creates jobs for all Queenslanders.

Our Advancing Education: An action plan for education in Queensland is our commitment to teacher excellence and supporting students to become life-long learners.

It is being delivered through our record $9.8 billion education budget which is achieving some of Queensland’s best ever results in NAPLAN since testing began.

Since we were elected, we have employed 3,450 new teachers and 1,000 additional teacher aides and we have committed to drive STEM outcomes through the employment of specialists in each region to support every school.

This investment in frontline services and upskilling our teachers is putting downward pressure on class sizes and ensuring all students get the individual attention they deserve to make the most of their education.

We are driving strong improvements in the early years with free playgroup membership, we have grown kindergarten participation to more than 95 per cent. We have introduced compulsory Prep to provide a critical foundation year for schooling.

We are also investing nearly $1 billion to support students with disability, ensuring we deliver an inclusive education for all students. Our ground-breaking Autism Hub and Reading Centre are providing the support teachers and parents need throughout the state.

The Palaszczuk Government is also delivering the greatest reform to senior secondary and tertiary entrance in a generation.
Our Plans: Putting Queenslanders First

While we have achieved a great deal since our election in 2015 and reversed the cuts of the Newman-Nicholls Government, we recognise there is still more to do.

That is why a re-elected Palaszczuk Government will continue to implement innovative programs to ensure our schools are providing a world class education.

Making the early years count

We know that children who attend playgroup and kindy are better prepared for school.

A re-elected Palaszczuk Government will continue to provide free-12 month Playgroup Queensland membership, giving young children under one, the best possible start to their education.

We will also continue to support more Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children to attend kindy and also provide quality kindergarten programs in rural and remote communities.
As a direct result of our investment, more Queensland children take part in kindy than ever before.

**Improving literacy**

We know reading is the foundation of all learning. That’s why the Palaszczuk Government will ensure Queensland children receive the extra support they need to become competent readers and learners.

In 2016, we opened the Reading Centre to provide support to teachers, parents and students throughout the state.

The Centre provides specialist advice on how to teach and support reading, including strategies for students with dyslexia.

The Palaszczuk Government has also employed specialist coaches in literacy or English as an Additional Language or Dialect (EALD) to lift the reading outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.

Labor introduced the Ready Reader program in 2010 to support reading in primary schools. Volunteers who qualified for a blue card were trained to work under a teacher’s direction to help improve students’ literacy.

The Newman-Nicholls Government cut the four-year program in 2012 with two years to run.

A re-elected Palaszczuk Government will reintroduce Ready Reading to provide more opportunities for children to read.

We will invest up to $1.3 million over three years to recruit and train a reading army of up to 3,000 volunteers to drive improved literacy in Queensland state schools.

**Employing more teachers**

Queensland’s state schools are growing at close to 10,000 additional students every year. To meet this growth the Palaszczuk Government will invest more than $1 billion to employ more than 3,700 extra teachers throughout the state over four years.

We are determined to restore frontline services cut by the Newman-Nicholls Government and cater for student growth.

The additional teachers will include 230 extra secondary teachers to enable state secondary schools to continue to provide the breadth of curriculum for the half Prep cohort of students who will complete senior in 2018 and 2019.

Our investment in additional teachers will continue to put downward pressure on class sizes as we strive to meet our agreed class size targets.
Support for Rural and Remote Teachers – Centres for Learning and Wellbeing

We know that teachers working in rural and remote schools face unique challenges and they deserve to be supported.

That’s why the Palaszczuk Government will invest $31.1 million to set up four Centres for Learning and Wellbeing across rural and remote Queensland to support the professional development and wellbeing of teachers.

Centres will be established in Roma (South West Region) and Mount Isa (North Queensland Region) with satellite centres in Kingaroy and Normanton. Two further centres and satellites will be opened in Central Queensland and Far North Queensland education regions.

The Centres will provide teachers, school leaders and non-teaching staff with access to high-quality professional learning and expert advice, relevant to their environments.

The Centres will also coordinate wellbeing support for students and staff in rural and remote schools.

Each Centre will be staffed by a senior principal and two district relieving teachers to provide teacher replacement support, professional development, administration and wellbeing support staff. The satellites will be staffed by a senior education officer.

We will also improve internet connectivity to employee housing in 430 locations to ensure teaching staff can stay connected.

Inspiring students to excel in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM)

We know that Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics skills are vital for Queensland students to be prepared for a range of jobs developing now and in the future.

That is why we are investing $81 million over four years to employ STEM specialists and $140
million to provide IT support staff in schools throughout the state. We are also taking STEM learning experiences to rural and regional Queensland through our Create Queensland regional roadshow.

A re-elected Palaszczuk Government will continue to inspire more students to pursue STEM studies through:

- Virtual STEM academies to deliver programs for the best and brightest in Years 5 to 9
- STEM Girl Power Camp to promote the participation and high achievement in STEM for girls
- Engaging regional STEM champions to lift Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander achievement and participation in STEM.

**Digital technologies curriculum including Coding and Robotics**

Coding and robotics skills are needed for the jobs of the future.

The Palaszczuk Government will ensure every state school offers the Digital Technologies curriculum, including coding and robotics.

We have established the Queensland Coding Academy to provide hands-on learning opportunities for students and teachers and to connect students to the real world of work and research.

And we are extending partnerships with industry, universities and researchers to connect students and schools with cutting-edge innovation and provide opportunities to work with industries to shape ideas and business plans.

**Engaging more children with disability in learning**

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to an inclusive education for all students.

We want every child in Queensland state schools to be supported and cared for in their education, including more than 32,000 students with disability.

A re-elected Palaszczuk Government will provide 12 new scholarships valued at up to $14,600 per scholarship each year for three years to assist current Queensland state school principals to undertake a Master of Education (Inclusive Education) at Queensland University of Technology.

We will also continue to support teachers and principals with access to the Autism Hub to support students with autism.

**A new approach for senior secondary and tertiary entrance**

A re-elected Palaszczuk Government will continue the delivery of the new system of senior secondary and tertiary entrance for Queensland students that blends the best of the current system with the rigour of the new.

The new system will begin for Year 11 students from 2019 and the major changes will include:

- For Year 12 students the OP will be replaced with an Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank (ATAR) bringing Queensland into line with other states and territories
- Senior subject results will be based on a student’s achievement in four pieces of assessment – three school-based and one external assessment
- For most senior subjects, external assessment will contribute 25 per cent towards a student’s final result
- Mathematics and science subjects will contribute 50 per cent
- 80 senior syllabuses are being reviewed in preparation for external assessment
- An English subject will be compulsory for students to receive their Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE)
- A QCE will be based on five board subjects or four board subjects and one Vocational Education and Training subject.

**Re-engaging students in learning**

In 2016-17, more than 4,000 young people were re-engaged in education.

We estimate the lifetime economic benefits of $480,000 per student re-engaged and more than $2 billion across their lifetime.

A re-elected Palaszczuk Government will actively re-engage disengaged or at-risk young people in education through:

- Provision of Pathways Colleges in Mt Gravatt, Bundamba, Goodna, Bracken Ridge and now Townsville
- Eagleby Learning College and a support campus at Varsity Lakes
- Training and employment pathways through the recently reinstated Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative.
- Provision of vocational education and training in schools.

Youth Engagement Hubs in our education regions will continue to help identify at-risk students and provide early intervention to get their learning back on track.

We will continue to fund the Clontarf Foundation Academies, supporting more than 1,700 Indigenous boys to stay at school longer across the Downs and in Townsville and Cairns and the Stars Foundation that is supporting 250 young indigenous women in North Queensland schools.

We also fund Role Model Leaders Australia – Girls Academy to support an additional 453 young women to stay at school and complete their education in Bundaberg and across the Burnett and South East.

We also deliver an engagement program with in-kind support for Indigenous girls in partnership with the Brisbane Broncos and Netball Queensland.

**Advancing Instrumental Music**

We need to continue to invest in our instrumental music program to support learning in the arts and to support access for all students. We know there is a strong connection between maths, language and music and that music is a great source of creative excellence.

We will deliver an additional 45 full-time equivalent (FTE) instrumental music teachers over three years at a total cost of $9.8 million. These additional instrumental music teachers will help grow the teaching time currently allocated to schools and allow new schools to participate. We will also invest $1 million to purchase 1,000 additional musical instruments for schools to expand the instrument fund over three years. The fund ensures that students who cannot afford to buy instruments can have access to a quality loan instrument.

Together, these initiatives provide the biggest boost to the program in its 50-year history and will bring music and opportunity to up to 10,000 children.