

A strong voice for our future

BRITTANY LAUGA MP

B Urb Dev (Urb&Reg Plan)(Hons), C.dec

**MEMBER FOR KEPPEL
AND ASSISTANT MINISTER
FOR EDUCATION**



MEDIA RELEASE

12 November 2020 (with photo)

Lauga: Education gives hope and opportunity to everyone

It is an honour and a privilege to be asked by Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk to continue as Assistant Minister for Education in the Palaszczuk Labor Government.

It is serendipitous that on the same day I am sworn in as Assistant Minister for Education, my mother Sharon McKee received a recognition of service certificate from the Minister for 30 years as a Queensland state school teacher.

I am looking forward to continuing my working relationship with Minister for Education Grace and I congratulate Minister Grace on her re-appointment.

My mother, a state school teacher of over 30 years, instilled in me the value of a quality education for all Queenslanders, no matter who they are or where they come from.

Education is the jewel in the crown of the State Labor Government.

Investing in education pays dividends for our young people and our wider community and economy.

I joined the Australian Labor Party over 10 years ago because I fundamentally believe education is the foundation on which we must build our future.

Education is the great social equaliser – it gives hope and chance to people in our community without.

ELECTORATE OFFICE

Shop 6, Yeppoon Central Shopping Centre
42 Park Street, Yeppoon QLD 4703

POSTAL ADDRESS

Post Office Box 1474
Yeppoon QLD 4703

CONTACT

Phone: (07) 4913 1500 Fax: (07) 4913 1509
Email: keppel@parliament.qld.gov.au

WEBSITE

www.brittanylauga.com.au

Now I will be rolling up my sleeves and working to deliver Labor's education commitments, including \$58 million in new school upgrades across Central Queensland and also hiring more than 6,100 new teachers and 1,100 new teacher aides right across Queensland.

This is the single biggest investment in teachers in Queensland's history.

We also want to support more people to pursue a pathway into teaching.

The Palaszczuk Labor Government will also deliver an initial \$20 million program to fund teacher internships for those who want to join in the important and valuable calling of education.

We all know COVID has shaken-up the school year for 850,000 Queensland students.

They've had it as tough as anyone this year.

This crisis has shown that we can do more and do better when it comes to supporting the mental health of all school students.

That's why our Government will deliver \$100 million for Queensland schools so that students can access professional support, whether that's the guidance officer or a trained psychologist.

In addition, we will also launch a pilot program for GPs in schools, to boost health support, with an initial 20 local schools to have this service available.

I know that across the state, kitchen tables have served as classrooms while parents and children alike try and manage online learning and tackle homework.

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And I know all of us have gained a new appreciation and new insight into how hard teachers work and what an incredible job they do.

To make homework easier for children and families, Labor will also create an initial 120 Homework Hubs in local schools.

Thank you to the Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk and Minister for Education Grace for entrusting me with this role in the government and I look forward to working together again to strengthen our education system in Queensland.

**Brittany Lauga MP
Member for Keppel
Assistant Minister for Education**

PHOTOS:

- 1. Member for Keppel and Assistant Education Minister Brittany Lauga with her father Peter McKee at Parliament House for the swearing in ceremony today.**
- 2. Member for Keppel and Assistant Education Minister Brittany Lauga being sworn in as Assistant Education Minister in Parliament.**

ENDS

Contact John 0400787037

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