

A strong voice for our future

BRITTANY LAUGA MP

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



MEDIA RELEASE

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More frontline teachers and increased non-contact time to improve teacher workload

More than 450 new teachers and over 100 new teacher aides will be employed across Central Queensland, and teachers will have increased non-contact time, under a Labor Palaszczuk Government.

Celebrating World Teachers' Day today at the Yeppoon State School, the Member for Keppel and Assistant Education Minister Brittany Lauga joined teachers for a morning tea and to thank them for their ongoing dedication and hard work ... especially during Covid-19.

Ms Lauga said the *Great Teachers, Great Future* program, which would be delivered under a re-elected Labor Palaszczuk Government, will see 6190 new teachers and 1139 teacher aides employed across Queensland over the next four years to meet student enrolment growth and to maintain nation-leading teacher to student ratios and low class sizes.

"Our teachers are very special members of our community who work tirelessly to ensure Queensland children get the best start in life," she said.

"The Palaszczuk Government is committed to ensuring our hard-working and deeply committed teachers and school leaders are appropriately supported in their jobs, both in pay and conditions and through addressing teacher workload."

Ms Lauga said additional measures to address workloads would see increased non-contact time for beginning, primary and special school teachers from next year and additional relief for secondary teachers.

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“With a mother as a teacher I know how hard our teachers work and it’s vital that we continue to listen to what support they need when they’re on the frontline delivering education to our young people.”

Ms Lauga said she was keen to see the benefits of the \$20 million investment to set up the exciting new *Turn to Teaching* paid internship program to attract aspiring teachers from other fields of work.

“We want to attract the very best teachers to our profession and to do that we ensure our teachers and school leaders are treated with the dignity and respect they deserve.

“We are also providing a teacher aide for every Prep classroom from next year.

“We are determined to ensure all students get the support they need to succeed in their education,” she said.

“As well as hiring and supporting our teachers, the Palaszczuk Government has also invested heavily in education infrastructure in Keppel,” she said.

“This includes \$8 million towards a new manual arts block at the Yeppoon State High School, \$850,000 to refurbish the STEM space at Yeppoon State School, \$8.57 million for a teaching block at Parkhurst State School, \$990,000 Frenchville State School roof over sports courts and \$700,000 to Mount Archer SS for a security fence.

“Just this month it was announced Taranganba State School will receive \$500,000 for additional infrastructure to help increase capacity for the school’s Outside School Hours Care (OSHC).

These new classrooms, multi-purpose halls and facility upgrades are part of a \$58 million investment in new, modern school facilities across Central Queensland under a re-elected Palaszczuk Labor Government.

The funding is included in a \$1 billion *Great Schools, Great Future* education policy to modernise schools and support more than 3,100 local construction jobs across Queensland.

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Earlier this month Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk also pledged \$100 million to ensure every Queensland primary and secondary state school student has access to a psychologist or similar health and wellbeing professional.

Ms Lauga said Labor's record investment in education was in stark contrast to the LNP's disastrous record of cutting teachers and weakening their employment rights.

"The Palaszczuk Government is committed to maximising permanency for all of our teachers and doing all we can to ensure safe and secure employment for public sector workers.

"Under the LNP Government more than 14,000 public servants were sacked after being told they had "nothing to fear.

"Deb Frecklington says she will cut \$3.2 billion from the Queensland public service to fund her election promises – and we know that means cutting our frontline workers such as our teachers and doctors.

"We can't afford the LNP's cuts."

PHOTO: Brittany Lauga celebrating World Teachers' Day at Yeppoon State School with principal Kylie Bloomfield.

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