

# \$100 MILLION GAME CHANGING STUDENT WELL-BEING PACKAGE



**\$100 million to ensure every student in every primary and secondary state school has access to a health and well-being professional at their school.**

The Palaszczuk Government is acutely aware of the challenges facing students and their mental health. Students report they are feeling worried about their families, their studies and the future. COVID-19 has only exacerbated these worries.

It is important that students know that support is available if and when they need it - research shows the clear link between students' mental health and well-being and their results at school.

Building on the great work done so far to address these issues, our \$100 million plan for supporting student well-being will provide students with direct access to a health professional at school if they are feeling anxious, worried or stressed. This will support students who need it the most, give parents greater peace of mind knowing support is there for their children, and allow teachers to focus on their job of teaching.

Every child deserves a world class education and if they are experiencing mental health issues, we will be there for them. We will continue to back our students with all the support they need to reach their full potential.



## OUR COMMITMENT AND PLAN FOR QUEENSLAND

**A re-elected Palaszczuk Government will invest \$100 million over four years to:**

- **Employ 464 additional health and well-being professionals in our schools to support the mental health and well-being of our students in every primary and secondary state school in Queensland**
- **Establish a pilot project placing general practitioners in 20 state secondary schools in areas of greatest need, providing access to medical care and advice free of charge in a familiar environment.**

The commitment is a game-changer when it comes to addressing the serious and complex mental health issues some of our students are confronted with.

For the first time, health and well-being professionals - such as psychologists, youth workers, behavioural specialists, and allied health professionals - will be employed in a co-ordinated way in schools across the state. This will ensure every state school student in Queensland has access to professional, confidential support at their school if and when they need it.

The health and well-being professionals will provide every school and their students with expert advice and support across all phases of student well-being, including mental health promotion, early intervention for mental health issues and complex case management.



## PALASZCZUK GOVERNMENT'S RECORD

The Palaszczuk Government has tackled issues of student health and well-being head on.

In February 2018, we established the Queensland anti-cyberbullying taskforce, chaired by Madonna King.

The Palaszczuk Government accepted all 29 recommendations from the Taskforce and committed \$3.5 million to their implementation.

Our Minister for Education established the Ministerial Student Advisory Council to hear first-hand from students their perspectives on school life, including issues like bullying and mental health.

The Palaszczuk Government has implemented a number of related measures to support student safety and well-being, including:

- \$450,000 to Alannah and Madeline Foundation to partner with Dolly's Dream to implement the eSmart Schools Program in Queensland schools
- New guidelines and direction for schools on preventing and addressing bullying and cyberbullying, and the acceptable use of mobile phones
- Rolling out the Respectful Relationships education program for all schools to help address a range of social and emotional issues
- Opened Jacaranda Place in April 2020, a new Queensland adolescent extended treatment centre
- \$35 million for innovative programs, such as Link and Launch, FlexiSpaces and Regional Youth Engagement Hubs, to support at-risk secondary students, year 12 completors, and early school leavers to engage back at school, or in training and work.

## NEWMAN-FRECKLINGTON LEGACY

The LNP left behind a disastrous legacy of education cuts, sackings and school closures last time they were in office with Campbell Newman and his assistant Minister Deb Frecklington.

They cut more than 500 teaching positions from Queensland schools and sacked 700 education support staff.

They cut programs designed specifically to support students and families:

- Cut \$133,000 from the Ready Readers volunteers training program to support students in literacy programs
- Cut \$291,000 from the Positive Parenting Program
- Cut \$100,000 from the Pyjama Foundation, a mentoring program to encourage reading among foster children.

They sacked nine school nurses in 2013 and closed the Barrett Adolescent Centre for mental health, despite direct warnings from experts about the danger that would place vulnerable at-risk kids in.

The Newman Government closed 8 schools across Toowoomba, Townsville and Brisbane, and had a hit list of 50 more they planned to close.

And they are at it again with cuts planned to our Cooler Cleaner Schools program and cuts to teacher numbers.

You can't cut your way to a world-class education. Only Labor will continue to deliver the ongoing investment our students need for a world class education.



**Find out more online about how the Palaszczuk Government is Supporting Student Well-Being and Backing Queensland Jobs**

[www.facebook.com/APalaszczukMP](https://www.facebook.com/APalaszczukMP)

[www.twitter.com/AnnastaciaMP](https://www.twitter.com/AnnastaciaMP)

[www.instagram.com/AnnastaciaMP](https://www.instagram.com/AnnastaciaMP)

[www.youtube.com/AnnastaciaMP](https://www.youtube.com/AnnastaciaMP)