EDUCATION

The LNP’s Plan to Deliver Jobs and Economic Growth
Welcome

We believe that investing in education is an investment in the future of our children and grandchildren.

Unfortunately, Queensland is stagnating under a Labor Government that is stuck in neutral - doing nothing is not working.

The greatest risk Queenslanders face is job insecurity and ensuring our children get the best education to ensure future economic prosperity. Queensland families are falling behind because of Annastacia Palaszczuk and the do-nothing Labor Government.

Queensland education and training needs to adapt to changing economic pressures if we are to remain competitive. It is often said that the one constant in education policy is change. Education is vital for our children’s future and the Queensland economy, as the second largest services export in our state.

Our education and training sector must rise to the challenges and rewards that come with increased automation and the ongoing technological improvements and digitisation of Australian industries.

Setting the right education and training foundations will ensure more jobs for Queenslanders.

A Tim Nicholls-led Liberal National Government will Build a Better Queensland. We have a plan to create jobs, support small business and provide better services for families and seniors.

An LNP Government will reduce the risk to our economic security by focusing on six drivers to strengthen and diversify the Queensland economy. The six drivers are:

- Tourism
- Agriculture
- Resources
- Construction and Manufacturing
- Services, Science and Technology, and
- Education.

We will boost literacy and numeracy standards with a plan to get back to basics and focus on delivering better education outcomes for our kids. Teaching excellence is the foundation to any future success.

Only by Building a Better Queensland – will we deliver the jobs needed to kick-start the economy and ensure Queenslanders benefit from that investment economically, socially or by improving and sustaining our environment.
The LNP’s Economic Plan

By focusing on six key drivers the LNP will create jobs while strengthening and diversifying the Queensland economy.

The LNP’s six drivers represent almost two-thirds of the Queensland economy and more than seven out of every ten jobs in the state.

70% of all Queensland jobs

Economic success starts with the best education

As Queensland shifts from a resources-led economy to one based more on services, four service industries have created more jobs than were lost in mining over the last two years – Health, Education, Professional Services and Accommodation and Food Services.

The education sector is the fourth largest employer in Queensland, with almost 200,000 workers. While overall education employment has grown strongly, the fortunes of different parts of Queensland’s education sector have changed in recent years.

The graph below shows employment in each of the education sectors in recent years.

As reported by the Australia Institute, with Queensland’s growing population, staff levels in schools will be a continuing priority in the coming years. According to the Queensland Schools Planning Commission established by the LNP, the student population will grow by an extra 257,000 students to 2031.

Additional teaching staff will continue to be required for a growing public, private and tertiary education sector.

Lifting teaching standards

As demand grows for more teachers and trainers, we need to ensure they have the supports required to meet these challenges now and into the future.

This requires a long term commitment to work with universities and training organisations to ensure the necessary number of well-trained graduates are entering the workforce each year.

It is important that our teachers are equipped with the knowledge and skills to teach the subjects that will underpin the jobs of the future. The foundation stones are literacy and numeracy and we need to ensure teachers can confidently teach them in the classroom.

1 ABS Series 5220.0 – Australian National Accounts: State Accounts
2 ABS Series 6291.0.55.003 – Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly
4 National Centre for Vocational Education Research – Apprentices and Trainees – December Quarter 2016
Teaching standards are the foundation for our students’ future success. If our teachers are struggling with basic language, literacy and numeracy, how can they be expected to teach our children? According to the Australian Council for Education Research\(^6\), the academic ability and qualifications of teaching entrants is important for a number of reasons. There is a relationship between scores on verbal ability and scholastic aptitude tests, and eventual teaching effectiveness. Applicants with strong academic qualifications are more likely to be effective teachers, as measured by growth in student teachers’ test scores.

The same research found deep subject matter understanding is a necessary condition for being able to use effective methods for teaching these subjects. (National Research Council, 2010; Feuer et al., 2013). Further research highlighted by the Australian Council for Education Research suggests there are valid grounds on which to select applicants who meet the intellectual demands of effective teaching.

**Boosting literacy and numeracy**

Improving education standards at this critical transition of the economy is vital to ensuring future success. Under Labor, education standards have slipped, with Queensland students not meeting 18 out of 24 national benchmarks.

We need to be setting standards for our children to reach their full potential and for them to achieve national benchmarks. While there have been some gains in early years, we can’t afford to be out-smarted by other states. Our children are Queensland’s future and we need to set a strong foundation in literacy and numeracy to put students on the front foot to future career success. There is no doubt that boosting literacy and numeracy levels for students is critical to capitalising on education as an economic driver.

**STEM as the future of our education success**

According to recent reports from the former Queensland Chief Scientist Dr Geoff Garrett, over the past decade Queensland has experienced growth in workforce skills in the STEM fields, but at the same time experienced a fall in students studying these subjects at school and university. Queensland has also experienced a dramatic decrease in the number of students undertaking science in secondary school.

Currently our primary school teachers have limited STEM teaching experience and we can’t afford to leave it to secondary schooling to engage students. Early engagement in STEM will help transition young inquiring minds to future greatness.

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\(^6\) Ingvarson, L., Reid, K., Buckley, S., Kleinhenz, E., Masters, G., Rowley, G. (Sept, 2014). Best Practice Teacher Education Programs and Australia’s Own Programs. Canberra: Department of Education.

\(^7\) Office of the Queensland Chief Scientist – The Challenge for Queensland
The LNP’s Record

As we continue the transition out of the mining construction boom, the key to growing the Queensland economy and creating jobs is an economic plan that focuses on strength through diversity.

In government, the LNP had a strong record of developing our education and training sectors of the Queensland economy.

Between 2012 and 2015 the LNP in government delivered significant reform for the Queensland education system. After almost 20 of 22 years under Labor governments we had a huge task to turn things around. We inherited a crumbling school system with a $300 million-plus backlog in basic school maintenance. Our $600 million investment over 3 years revitalised schools around Queensland. We employed local tradies so schools could get things fixed quickly.

In 2014 the LNP Government introduced the Great Results Guarantee (GRG). The GRG meant an extra $131 million was available to schools directly right across Queensland. Schools were given flexibility and autonomy to decide how the GRG funding was spent to improve the performance of all students. Only the LNP was able to deliver a truly needs-based resourcing model for state schools.

Under the LNP, 80 Queensland state schools took up the opportunity to become an Independent Public School. This initiative gave autonomy to school communities to make local decisions that reflected the needs of their students. It also provided schools with financial flexibility and the reduction of red tape. The success of this program is reflected in the number of Independent Public Schools that are now operating across Queensland (250).

Under the LNP Government, more than 92 per cent of Year 3 and 5 students achieved at or above the national standard across reading, spelling, grammar and punctuation, and numeracy. In 2014, year 7 and 9 students also scored well in NAPLAN results with more than 94 per cent of students achieving the national standard or better in numeracy.

Between 2012 and 2014 the LNP helped close the education gap for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, lifting year 12 completions from 70.15% to 86.49%. Under the LNP we also boosted retention rates for indigenous students from 56.9% to 64.3%.

In 2013 we also introduced the Solid Partners, Solid Futures strategy to help close the gap further.

In training, we established a five-year action plan to revitalise the vocational education and training (VET) sector and support Queenslanders to access and complete the skills training they need to get a job.

We partnered with industry to chart a future for the skills that our future workforce needs.

We committed $615 million in 2014-15 for the VET Investment Plan to fund training in high priority areas, including $134 million to support TAFE Queensland and we provided $36 million to boost apprenticeships by 6,000 under the Queensland Apprenticeship Pledge.

On 29 January 2014, the previous LNP Government established the International Education and Training Advisory Council - Queensland (the Council) to maximise opportunities for Queensland’s participation in international education and training.

In 2012–13, Queensland’s education and training export revenue was worth $2.224 billion, including tuition fees and expenditure on goods and services.

It is estimated that for every $145,000 spent by international students in Australia, a full-time equivalent job is generated in sectors such as education and training, food, retail, accommodation and tourism. This means that up to an additional 15,300 Queensland jobs may be generated by the international education and training sector, based on current export revenue figures for Queensland.

The sector is also critical to enhancing Queensland’s global standing, building international networks and enriching the Queensland community.
Since 2015 there has sadly been no real improvement in our education system. Under Annastacia Palaszczuk and Labor, $268 million has been ripped out of the forward budget for education and training.

Labor has bungled the roll out of external assessment for seniors which pushed the start date out by another year to 2019. The Palaszczuk Labor Government thinks it’s acceptable to have a part-time Education Minister. We think students, parents and teachers deserve better. They deserve a Minister who invests all of their efforts in the education of our children, not a Minister who juggles multiple portfolios.

In 2016 students in Queensland across years 3, 5, 7 and 9 recorded the second lowest writing test scores of any State. The results in 2017 saw further stagnation of NAPLAN performance with no significant improvements on the previous year. Labor’s answer to declining NAPLAN results is to blame the test rather than accept the looming crisis and fix it.

Annastacia Palaszczuk has no plan to tackle truancy. In Queensland there were some 78,779 unauthorised absences in 2016 up from 67,297 in 2015. Under the do-nothing Palaszczuk Labor Government there were more than 25,000 students who were absent from Queensland schools for 5 days or more with no explanation or reasonable excuse, with figures for 2016-17 showing to March 2017 17,394 students had again been absent for 5 days or more with no reasonable excuse.

Despite thousands of students missing from school, many for long periods of time with no explanation, only 44 parents in 2016 were referred to police for proceedings against an offence of a parent failing to ensure their child’s attendance at school.

Labor has no new policies and has not learnt anything from its disastrous employment policies it had previously. Labor is still advocating training for training’s sake – allowing people to engage in endless qualification training to distract them from the fact that they have not been able to get a job at the end of their studies.

Labor promised to rescue TAFE and yet TAFE has assets in the bank and Yvette D’Ath won’t commit to releasing the secret TAFE asset sales plan before the next state election. At the same time, TAFE student numbers are declining because training has transitioned to online delivery models and on-the-job industry training programs.
LNP Plan

To Build a Better Queensland we are focused on diversifying the economy and growing the education and training sector. Our education and training initiatives include:

Empowering Local Schools
- Ensuring every dollar of additional Commonwealth funding under Gonski 2.0 goes towards the educational and training outcomes of our kids, not increased bureaucracy.
- Delivering additional teachers and teacher aides, in-line with population growth.
- Empowering local school communities by delivering an extra 50 Independent Public Schools over 4 years. Our investment of $7 million will ensure schools can have greater autonomy to deliver the best outcomes for their students.
- Developing a new anti-bullying resource for Queensland schools in consultation with teachers, parents, educational experts and child psychologists and that is age appropriate. Withdrawing the Safe Schools Coalition resources from Queensland schools.

Lifting Teaching Standards
- Supporting new teachers with 1,000 new teacher mentors. We will select these teacher mentors from our high performing teachers across the state. Mentors would offer guidance, feedback and a range of support to new teachers, in the important early stage of their careers.
- Boosting teaching standards, by requiring new teachers to undertake a pre-registration test of a new teacher's ability to teach language, literacy and numeracy in the classroom - as developed by the Australian Council for Education Research (ACER) for the Queensland College of Teachers.
- Getting back to basics with a greater focus on teaching the foundation skills of language, literacy and numeracy.
- More co-operation with non-government schools, to improve the overall system for everyone.
- Offering 80 new paid internships in special education and high demand subject areas to better equip our new teachers for the classroom. These new internships will be offered to our best final year student teachers.

Investing in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM)
- Increasing the focus on learning science and technology, with an $8.5 million investment to boost STEM for primary schools kids through our I-SPY program.
- Delivering 100 'science labs' for primary schools through grants of up to $50,000.
- Establishing more Coding Clubs in primary schools with an additional $500,000 of funding. With around 75 percent of jobs in the future to require STEM skills, coding clubs give students a start to allow them to design and build in a digital environment.
- Partnering with key universities across Queensland to engage post graduate science students to become STEM buddies to local primary schools. Buddies will help teachers better engage with students in the classroom and also give schools additional support to get the best science experience.
- Providing a pathway to success for our kids with $3 million in grants of up to $100,000 to create STEM academies in our local schools, allowing more opportunities for engagement in science and technology from a young age. As part of this initiative, a $500,000 Best and Brightest Fund will provide assistance to state schools to help compete in interstate and international competitions promoting STEM.
- Securing 8 more Autism coaches, with at least one for each education region. These additional Autism coaches will provide training and support to 6,500 teachers and teacher aides all across Queensland over the next 4 years.
- Delivering an additional 15 occupational therapists to give more students with a disability the support they need. The additional access to occupational therapy for children in schools will help develop their wellbeing and education outcomes.
- Boosting resources and equipment for occupational therapists with an additional $2 million of funding over 4 years.
- Nurturing gifted and talented students through the establishment of a specialist advisory panel to develop a comprehensive suite of resources to identify and support gifted and talented students.

Delivering a More Inclusive Education System
- Ensuring every one of the more than 50,000 prep students starting school each year get a free hearing test. The screening will detect hearing loss early so prep students get the best start to their education.
Tackling Truancy

• Trailing a rollout of four Education Truancy Prevention Officers in Cairns and Townsville.
• Introducing voluntary Education Parental Agreements to work with parents to address misbehaviour and irregular attendance at school.
• Working with local community organisations in Cairns and Townsville to provide more counselling and parenting support through a $3 million initiative.

Better Schools Fund

• Improving the education outcomes for our students by investing in key school amenities through our Better Schools Fund. Our $65 million Better Schools Fund will empower local school communities and P&Cs across Queensland to invest in key infrastructure such as air conditioning for classrooms, improved CCTV, sports ovals and playground equipment and school halls.
• Engaging local business and tradies through our Buy Local policy to improve our schools.

More International Education Opportunities

• Boosting investment and opportunities through our strong international education sector, leveraging our strong TAFE system and network of private training colleges.
• Continuing to build relationships with key trading partners to promote and connect Queensland based education providers.
• Establishing a standing international education council as part of our plan to attract and boost students from overseas markets attending Queensland schools and training colleges.

Training for More Jobs

• Getting 20,000 young Queenslanders working. Our $100 million plan to Get Queensland Working outlines four key initiatives to increase apprenticeship numbers and provide jobs and opportunities for young Queenslanders. Our plan includes 10,000 more apprentices, 10,000 jobs for young Queenslanders who just want to work and a WorkCover bonus for employers who train and retain young Queenslanders. We will also provide a $500 tools for tradies voucher to incentivise apprentices to complete the course and get the tools they need to get working.
• Supporting proven pathways from education to employment by investing $271 million over four years to boost school-based apprenticeships by 5,000.

Vocational Education and Training

• Focusing on increasing apprenticeship numbers, boosting commencement and completion rates by supporting proven training providers and identifying skills shortages.
• Ensuring that TAFE is engaged with modern forms of engagement and course delivery methods.
• Retaining and supporting Skilling Queenslanders for Work to provide a greater upskilling for employment needs, not just training for the sake of training.
• Improving training quality and development by ensuring that industry has a seat at the table and can better monitor and enforce standards and best practice.
• Boosting the number of school based apprentices to deliver better employment outcomes for young people.

• Partnering with industry to improve training completion rates, through proven trade training programs.
• Identifying skills shortages and workforce needs now and into the future, by working with industry as part of a revamped Ministerial Skills and Industry Board.
• Establishing a standing Industry Training Best Practice Council to work with the Commonwealth Government, improve training standards and ensure that course development is in line with industry expectations.
• Boosting support for mature-age job seekers looking to upskill, re-train and change careers or simply find a job to ensure that these men and women are no longer forgotten.
To learn more about Our Plan visit
betterqueensland.org.au