



Matt McEACHAN MP

Member for **Redlands**

16 August 2017

The Hon Peter Wellington MP
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
Parliament House
Alice Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

By email: speaker@parliament.qld.gov.au

Queensland Legislative Assembly	
Number: <u>5517J2119</u>	Tabled <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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MP: <u>Mr Speaker</u>	
Clerk's Signature: 	

Dear Mr Speaker,

I write to draw to your attention a matter of privilege relating to a Contempt of the Legislative Assembly.

Please find **attached** submissions in relation to this matter.

I ask that the Member for Ashgrove and the Member for Murrumba be referred to the Ethics Committee.

Should you have any queries, I am happy to meet at your convenience to discuss this matter further.

Kind regards,

Matt McEachan MP
Member for Redlands
Shadow Assistant Minister to the Leader of the Opposition

Enc.

SUBMISSIONS IN RELATION TO A MATTER OF PRIVILEGE RELATING TO A DELIBERATE MISLEADING OF THE HOUSE BY KATE JONES MP AND CHRIS WHITING MP ON 10 AUGUST 2017

BACKGROUND

1. This matter relates to a question without notice asked by the member for Murrumba and the answer provided by the member for Ashgrove, which on the face of their respective statements appears to be misleading, and a Contempt of the Assembly.

THE FACTS

2. On 10 August 2017, Hansard records the member for Murrumba asking the following question without notice to the member for Ashgrove:

My question is to the Minister for Education and I ask: the Palaszczuk government went to the 2015 election with a commitment to restore the front-line teachers who were cut from Queensland schools by the LNP government. Will the minister inform the House how the Labor government has worked to restore the teachers cut from Queensland classrooms?¹

3. In response, the member for Ashgrove said, *inter alia*, the following comments:

That is right: he knows full well that every school in Queensland was affected by the LNP cuts to teachers on the front line.

...

They went to the election saying that public servants, teachers, nurses, midwives and doctors had nothing to fear, yet they cut 500 teachers from schools that are growing here in Queensland.

...

They cut, sacked and sold.

4. On 21 May 2015 the Ethics Committee published report number 154 where it was found that a comment by the member for Inala, namely “*teachers are*

¹ Hansard, page 2170.

losing their jobs" in relation to primary and secondary schools, was misleading.²

RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

5. Section 37 of the *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001* defines the meaning of "Contempt" of the Assembly as:

37 Meaning of contempt of the Assembly

(1) Contempt of the Assembly means a breach or disobedience of the powers, rights or immunities, or a contempt, of the Assembly or its members or committees.

6. Standing Order 266 provides examples of Contempt to include, *inter alia*:

(2) deliberately misleading the House or a committee (by way of submission, statement, evidence or petition);

7. In order for the allegation of a deliberate misleading of the House to be made out, three elements must be proven:
 - a. the statement must, in fact, have been misleading;
 - b. it must be established that the member making the statement knew at the time the statement was made that it was incorrect; and
 - c. in making it, the member must have intended to mislead the House.
8. In determining whether each element is met, the standard of proof to be met is 'on the balance of probabilities.'

APPLICATION

9. I will deal with each element in turn.

THE FIRST ELEMENT – WAS THE MEMBER'S STATEMENT ACTUALLY MISLEADING?

10. The question by the member for Murrumba contains an assertion of fact that front-line teachers were cut by the Newman Government. It is analogous to the comment by the member for Inala the subject of the Ethics Committee report number 154 that teachers were losing their jobs.
11. The answer by the member for Ashgrove is more blatant and specifically refers to a number of sackings that she has misleadingly alleged to have occurred to teachers in the primary and secondary school systems. The answer provided should be read in the light of the context of the question asked by the member for Murrumba. In that context, the member for Ashgrove

² Ethics Committee, Report 154, 21 May 2015. Available from <http://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/documents/committees/ETHICS/2014/Matter-of-privilege16Oct2014/rpt-154-21May2015.pdf>

could only be referring to the Primary and Secondary school systems. As these allegations have been tested previously by the Ethics Committee and ruled to be misleading, there is no excuse for the member for Ashgrove to have made such blatantly misleading statements.

THE SECOND ELEMENT – WAS THE MEMBER AWARE AT THE TIME OF MAKING THE STATEMENT THAT IT WAS INCORRECT?

12. As both of the members were members of the 55th Parliament when the Ethics Committee's report was issued, it should be presumed they are aware of its contents. Moreover as the Minister for Education, the member for Ashgrove should be aware of the truth of this matter.
13. I respectfully submit that the second element of the test is met.

THE THIRD ELEMENT – DID THE MEMBER INTEND TO MISLEAD THE HOUSE?

14. *McGee*³ provides that in order to establish the third limb of the test, reference is to be given to the nature of the basis of knowledge and the formality of the circumstances of the statement.
15. The members made the comments in the context of question time when the scrutiny of government, and by extension, the credibility of the questions asked of the executive, are of significant importance.
16. In conclusion on this point, in light of these two considerations as provided by *McGee*, it must be assumed both members intended to mislead the house.

CONCLUSION

17. I respectfully submit that this matter warrants the further attention of the house by referral to the Ethics Committee.

³ *McGee, David, Parliamentary Privilege in New Zealand, Third Edition, Dunmore Publishing Ltd, Wellington, 2005, p.654.*



5 September 2017

Hon Peter Wellington MP
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
Alice Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Speaker,

I refer to your correspondence dated 25 August 2017 and the attached correspondence from the Member for Redlands, Mr Matt McEachan MP received by your office on 16 August 2017.

In his correspondence, the Member for Redlands, states:

The question by the member for Murrumba contains an assertion of fact that front-line teachers were cut by the Newman Government.

As evidence of this, the Member refers to Report No. 154 of the Ethics Committee.

He alleges the report finds the statement "teachers losing their jobs" in relation to primary and secondary schools by the Member for Inala was misleading.

I have **attached** a copy of Report No. 154 for your reference.

The Member for Redlands alleges my question without notice on 10 August to the Minister for Education was in contempt of Parliament. I have **attached** a copy of the Hansard for your reference and reproduced the relevant excerpt below.

Mr WHITING: *My question is to the Minister for Education and I ask: the Palaszczuk Government went to the 2015 election with a commitment to restore the front-line teachers who were cut from Queensland schools by the LNP government. Will the minister inform the House how the Labor government has worked to restore the teachers cut from Queensland classrooms?*

I submit, Mr Speaker that the offence of contempt of Parliament is not made out.

There are three elements to be proven in order to establish that a Member has committed the contempt of deliberately misleading the House:

1. The statement must have been misleading;
2. The Member making the statement must have known, at the time the statement was made, that it was incorrect; and
3. In making the statement, the Member intended to mislead the House.

I will deal with each of the elements in turn.

1. The statement must have been misleading

I refer to Report No. 152 of the Ethics Committee, in which the Premier was referred to the Ethics Committee on 28 August 2014, while Leader of the Opposition, for allegedly misleading the House on 5 June 2014 in a statement made during her budget reply speech.

I have **attached** a copy of Report No. 152 for your reference.

The then Leader of the Opposition stated, "*I rise on behalf of the 20,000 workers who were sacked after being told their jobs were safe*".

The then Leader of the Opposition made an initial submission in response to the referral of the matter to the then Speaker of the House. In it, she stated:

This statement is based on the estimated job losses in Government Departments, Government Owned Businesses and the Opposition's best estimate of associated job losses from the substantial funding cuts...to Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) and Local Governments.

....

The 20,000 jobs being lost is based on a combination of details from a range of sources. These include government publications, such as the budget papers, Estimates hearings and reasonably analyses of information available in the public arena (which has been required because of the government's continued refusal to provide detailed answers to specific Opposition questions relating to job losses).

In that instance, the committee noted that there was a conflict in views or opinions with respect to the method of calculation of job losses. It was noted in the report that it was not the role of the committee to determine the most appropriate method for calculation of job losses but whether the statement itself is factually incorrect.

The committee found that there was not enough evidence to conclusively find that the then Leader of the Opposition's statement was misleading.

The Queensland Teachers Union ran a school staffing campaign in 2012 on the shortfall of 569 full time equivalent positions in schools. I have **attached** a copy of the campaign for your reference.

The Minister for Education released a media statement on 23 June 2017 noting teachers had been cut from Queensland state schools. I have **attached** a copy of the media statement for your reference.

The submissions made by the then Leader of the Opposition in Report No. 154 was based on information publicly available in budget papers.

I note Report No. 154 does not make a finding that no teachers lost their jobs, but seeks to clarify whether the statement referred to primary and secondary or included tertiary teachers.

I submit, Mr Speaker, my question to the Minister referring to front line teachers being cut by the LNP was based on the knowledge that those cuts have previously been reported and verified by the Minister for Education.

I now turn to the second element that must be proved.

2. The member making the statement knew at the time the statement was made that it was incorrect

In order to constitute a contempt of Parliament it must be established that I knew at the time that the statement was made that it was inaccurate.

In Report No. 154, the committee noted the issues considered in Report No. 152 involved a difference of opinion about the method of calculating job losses, while the matter in Report No. 154 required a judgment about what constitutes a job loss and whether any had occurred in the teaching sector under the former Government.

In Report No. 154, the committee noted that is arguable that the Member for Inala's statement that "teachers are losing their jobs" was technically correct.

I submit my statement was not misleading and I made the statement on the basis of statements made by the Minister for Education.

I submit the Member for Redlands may have a difference in opinion on the methodology of calculation, as was the case in Report No. 152, which does not constitute a misleading statement.

I now turn to the third element.

3. in making the statement, the Member intended to mislead the House.

In order to prove that a Member intended to mislead the House, it must be established that the Member deliberately made the statement, knowing it to be false with the intention of misleading the House.

My intention in asking the question, Mr Speaker, was to remind the House and the people of Queensland of the former Government's first budget and the full effects of the budgetary decisions made by the former Government.

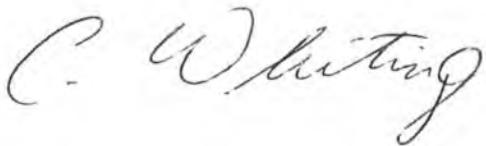
I believed the statement to be true, and had reasonable grounds for so believing. It is my continued assertion that the statement I made was not factually untrue or misleading, and that I did not believe it to be misleading either at the time I made it or at the present time. However, if this is

not accepted, I give my assurance to you, Mr Speaker, that it was not my intention to mislead the House.

Mr Speaker, from the evidence provided, I submit this matter is a 'conflict in views or opinions with respect to the method of calculation' as envisaged in Report No. 152 of the Ethics committee and I contend that this matter falls within the bounds of a debate on a point of view and is not a contempt of Parliament.

Based on the information I have provided, I do not believe I have intentionally misled the House. I hope this assists in resolving this matter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "C. Whiting". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the text "Yours sincerely,".

Chris Whiting MP
Member for Murrumba



Media release

Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism,
Major Events and the Commonwealth Games
The Honourable Kate Jones

Palaszczuk Government delivers extra teachers and teacher aides

The Palaszczuk Government has employed more than 4,400 extra teachers and teacher aides to improve education in Queensland state schools.

Education Minister Kate Jones said 3,400 extra teachers had been employed to address enrolment growth and also put downward pressure on class sizes.

"We're investing \$152 million over three years through our *Extra Teachers* commitment to deliver 875 new teaching positions above growth in state schools," Ms Jones said.

"This investment has more than restored the 500 teachers cut from Queensland state schools under the LNP.

"We want to ensure that all students get the individual attention they deserve to make the most of their education."

Ms Jones said every state primary, secondary and special school would benefit from the *Extra Teachers* funding.

"These extra teachers are over and above the number of teachers required to meet expected student enrolment growth," she said.

"It will help reduce class sizes in primary schools, provide more specialist teachers for secondary schools and free up our hardworking teachers and principals so they can spend more time collaborating and planning to maximise student learning outcomes."

Ms Jones said the Palaszczuk Government had also employed more teacher aides across the board.

"We have employed the equivalent of 1000 extra full-time teacher aides to support teachers in the classroom," she said.

"Through our 2017-18 Budget we are providing 4000 extra Prep teacher aide hours per week to ensure every Prep class has a teacher aide."

Media: 3719 7530

[Home](#) > [Archived Campaigns](#) > [School staffing campaign 2012-13](#) > [School staffing campaign](#)

School staffing campaign

In its 2012 Budget, the state government funded only 270 additional teachers, teacher-aides and support staff, even though an estimated 837 were needed to cater for enrolment growth in 2013.

The shortfall, amounting to 569 full-time equivalent positions, is being funded by redirecting staffing allocations previously used by schools to limit class sizes, provide early literacy support and allow schools to offer a broader curriculum.

The result is that schools are operating with reduced teacher numbers, despite having an equal or greater number of students.

Education Minister John-Paul Langbroek has been reported as dismissing these staffing cuts as "minor adjustments", but QTU members are campaigning to make it clear that these "adjustments" are having major repercussions in our schools and that they will not tolerate penny-pinching at the expense of providing quality, well-resourced education to our students.

Find out how you can take part in the campaign by reading the [Newsflash \(8 Feb 2013\)](#).

Campaign News

[Petition launched calling for changes to the staffing model to be reversed](#)

28 March 2013 : Also in this issue. find time to "give a gonski" during the school holidays

[Government yet to hear the message on school staffing](#)

8 Feb 2013: As the state government's staffing cuts begin to bite, QTU members need to make it clear to the Education Minister that these "adjustments" are having major repercussions in our schools. [Read more ...](#)

[8 Feb 2013 : Staffing shortfalls start biting in schools](#)

QTU President Kevin Bates : It seems that members' worst fears are becoming reality. with reports coming into the Union of prep classes of up to 32, subjects being dropped from high school offerings and contract teachers being "let go" purely due to budgetary constraints...

[12 Sep 2012 : Devils emerge from education budget detail](#)

The Queensland Teachers' Union has warned that state schools will be hit even harder than expected by the state budget.

Queensland Teachers' Journal articles

Staffing: no excuse for under resourcing

16 Nov 2012 : With the release of its first budget, the Newman government brought into question its commitment to the continuing provision of adequate resourcing for schools...

Newman government's first budget contains little good news for education

5 October 2012 : The first Newman government State Budget, brought down on 11 September, confirmed the cut and slash fiscal and economic strategy foreshadowed in the so-called Independent Commission of Audit Interim Report...

Additional allocation process

Application for additional staffing to regions – post Day 8

Union reps should discuss the impact of staffing cuts with principals and other school leaders. Schools affected by budget cuts can apply to their region for an additional allocation through the Application for Additional Staffing Allocation form. Each region will produce a form to be completed by the principal of the particular school, outlining such issues as:

- the reason for the application
- details of the employee type and period requested
- current and proposed class arrangements or the other impacts of the cuts
- detailed and comprehensive explanation for the reasons behind the application

For further information, please read the [Union Rep Update](#) issued on 25 January 2013

Union Rep resources

25 Jan 2013 : Staffing campaign

Union Rep Update: In term four of 2012, the QTU initiated a staffing campaign in response to Newman government budget cuts to teacher staffing allocations amounting to 569 full-time equivalent positions across Queensland.

Class size

[Home](#) > [Archived Campaigns](#) > [School staffing campaign 2012-13](#) > [School staffing campaign](#)

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Minister for Education and
Minister for Tourism and Major Events
and the Commonwealth Games

Hon Peter Wellington MP
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Dear Mr Speaker,

I refer to your correspondence dated 25 August 2017 and the attached correspondence from the Member for Redlands, Mr Matt McEachan MP received by your office on 16 August 2017.

In his correspondence, the Member for Redlands, states:

The answer by the member for Ashgrove is more blatant and specifically refers to a number of sackings that she has misleadingly alleged to have occurred to teachers in the primary and secondary school systems.

...As these allegations have been tested previously by the Ethics Committee and ruled to be misleading, there is no excuse for the member for Ashgrove to have made such blatantly misleading statements.

The Member for Redlands alleges my statements on 10 August were in contempt of Parliament. I have **attached** a copy of the Hansard for your reference and reproduced the relevant excerpt below.

Ms JONES: *I thank the honourable member for the question. That is right: he knows full well that every school in Queensland was affected by the LNP cuts to teachers on the front line. They promised one thing before the election –*

Ms Palaszczuk *interjected.*

Ms JONES: *That is right; they did not even do that. They went to the election saying that public servants, teachers, nurses, midwives and doctors had nothing to fear, yet they cut 500 teachers from schools that are growing here in Queensland. We said very clearly that a vote for the Palaszczuk government would be a vote for more teachers in our classrooms, reducing class sizes and that is exactly what we have delivered: 875 teachers above growth. In total, more than 3,400 extra teachers have been employed in state schools.*

I submit, Mr Speaker that the offence of contempt of Parliament is not made out.

There are three elements to be proven in order to establish that a Member has committed the contempt of deliberately misleading the House:

1. The statement must have been misleading;
2. The Member making the statement must have known, at the time the statement was made, that it was incorrect; and
3. In making the statement, the Member intended to mislead the House.

I will deal with each of the elements in turn.

1. The statement must have been misleading

When I was appointed Minister for Education in 2015, I asked the Department of Education and Training to provide advice on the number of teacher full time equivalents (FTE) from 2011 onwards and to advise why teacher numbers did not grow consistently with student enrolment increases.

I was advised the policies put in place by the LNP Government resulted in a reduction in the number of teachers allocated to Queensland state schools.

I received advice that key teacher allocations to state primary schools were removed resulting in 115 less FTE, secondary school resource teachers were removed resulting in 200 less FTE and the rounding benefit was removed from large primary and secondary schools resulting in 254 less FTE, a total of 569 FTE positions lost.

My statement on 10 August 2017 was that 500 teachers were cut from Queensland schools, which is supported by advice from the Department of Education and Training.

This was also reported by the Queensland Teachers Union in 2012. I have **attached** a copy for your reference.

I submit, Mr Speaker that my statement was not misleading.

I now turn to the second element that must be proved.

2. The member making the statement knew at the time the statement was made that it was incorrect

In order to constitute a contempt of Parliament it must be established that I knew at the time that the statement was made that it was inaccurate.

I submit the statement was not misleading.

I submit the statement was made with knowledge that it was based on advice provided by the Department of Education and Training and was not incorrect.

I now turn to the third element.

3. In making the statement, the Member intended to mislead the House.

In order to prove that a Member intended to mislead the House, it must be established that the Member deliberately made the statement, knowing it to be false with the intention of misleading the House.

My intention in making the statement referred to you, Mr Speaker, was to remind the House and the people of Queensland of the former Government's first budget and the full effects of the policy decisions made by the former Government in relation to the allocation of teachers to state schools. I did not advise the house that teachers were "sacked". I made the point that as a result of the LNP Government decision there was a "cut" of 500 teacher positions to state schools. Furthermore I have made this point at previous parliament sittings and I not the Member for Redlands has not raised a concern with you or me.

I believed the statement to be true, and had reasonable grounds for so believing. It is my continued assertion that the statement I made was not factually untrue or misleading, and that I did not believe it to be misleading either at the time I made it or at the present time. However, if this not accepted, I give my assurance to you, Mr Speaker, that it was not my intention to mislead the House.

Based on the information I have provided, I do not believe I have intentionally mislead the House. I hope this assists in resolving this matter.

Yours sincerely



HON KATE JONES MP
Minister for Education
Minister for Tourism, Major Events
and the Commonwealth Games

How does that compare with the Newman government, which used their record majority to bludgeon the Queensland health system to its knees? They delivered 4,400 health workers to the scrap heap, 1,800 nurses and midwives to the dole queue and cuts to mental health funding. They swung a wrecking ball through the economy, loaded up the howitzer of austerity and left a smoking ruin in its place. Their legacy was warring with doctors, fighting the nurses and attacking public servants. Every day there was a fresh assault and every opportunity was seized to cut. It was a rancorous and arrogant government that spent its time in office taking the 'care' out of health care. Poll after poll tells us that the Queensland community only trusts the Australian Labor Party to deliver for health care, and when you compare our record to theirs you know why.

Child Protection

Ms BATES: My question without notice is to the Premier. Premier, I table a graph showing a record 10,334 child abuse investigations now taking longer than the required 60 days to complete, which is a more than 20 per cent blowout in just 12 months and the highest it has ever been in the past six years.

Tabled paper: Graph of numbers of child safety investigations taking 61 days or longer [1294].

Premier, is this not further proof that Labor does not have a plan to keep Queensland's most vulnerable children safe?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for the question. Let us recap on a bit of history. First of all, as I have said publicly—and I know that the Minister for Child Safety has said this publicly as well—in many instances children coming into care have come from families in incredibly complex situations—not just domestic and family violence, but either one or both parents being ice addicted. As we know, and as I have stated publicly, one in three children coming into care have either one or both ice addicted parents. The cases are getting more complex. The staff have been stretched to the limits. Why are they stretched to the limits? Because the former government cut 225 front-line staff. That is your record.

We are restoring the staff that are needed to do the job by putting more capacity out there. As the minister announced recently, there is extra funding for the Triple PPP Parenting Program to ensure that families get the support they need. Not only were front-line positions cut by the former treasurer; peak bodies were cut as well. Under the former government Foster Care Queensland was cut by \$241,000; PeakCare Queensland was cut by \$175,000; CREATE was cut by \$159,000; QCOSS was cut by \$320,000; the Domestic Violence Prevention Centre on the Gold Coast was cut by \$152,000; the Domestic Violence Resource Service Mackay was cut by \$39,000; and the Ipswich Women's Centre Against Domestic Violence was cut by \$50,000. That is your record. Under my government over \$300 million is being put into domestic and family violence prevention in this state. For the first time a minister has been dedicated to this issue.

On this side of the House we will continue to give the NGOs the support they need to work with government for the protection of our children. Do not come in here and criticise when you so savagely cut 325 front-line service staff out there who were doing great work. We will always support the workers in this state. We will support the doctors, the child safety officers, the nurses, the teachers, the teacher aides, the firefighters and the ambulance officers no matter where they live in this state. Let's go out there and debate your track record against our record—

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Mudgeeraba, you continually talked during the Premier's answer to your question. If you wanted to rise on a point of order in relation to relevance you could have done so. You did not do that. You are warned under standing order 253A.

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Achievements; Schoolteachers

Mr WHITING: My question is to the Minister for Education and I ask: the Palaszczuk government went to the 2015 election with a commitment to restore the front-line teachers who were cut from Queensland schools by the LNP government. Will the minister inform the House how the Labor government has worked to restore the teachers cut from Queensland classrooms?

Ms JONES: I thank the honourable member for the question. That is right: he knows full well that every school in Queensland was affected by the LNP cuts to teachers on the front line. They promised one thing before the election—

Ms Palaszczuk interjected.

Ms JONES: That is right; they did not even do that. They went to the election saying that public servants, teachers, nurses, midwives and doctors had nothing to fear, yet they cut 500 teachers from schools that are growing here in Queensland. We said very clearly that a vote for the Palaszczuk government would be a vote for more teachers in our classrooms, reducing class sizes, and that is exactly what we have delivered: 875 teachers above growth. In total, more than 3,400 extra teachers have been employed in state schools.

I know that LNP members want to talk down state schools and our teachers—

An opposition member interjected.

Ms JONES: You are tonight. We know that it is a Labor government that has put in more teachers and put downward pressure on class sizes. We know that those opposite have form. Tim Nicholls and Campbell Newman are cut from the same cloth. Their record is to cut, sell and sack. That is what they did, and nothing was immune. In relation to state schools across Queensland we saw cuts and closures. Schools were shut down and sold off with no consultation. That is their track record and we know it. Every single Queenslander knows that a vote for Tim Nicholls is a vote to cut, sell and sack.

Mr Minnikin interjected.

Ms JONES: That is right, and it works. Labor will always fight for education. We will always invest in education. I note the presence in the gallery of students from Varsity College. I was there with the Hon. Dean Wells at the turning of the first sod, when we started building that school back in 2000. We are still building schools on the Gold Coast and across Queensland in high-growth areas, including in Townsville. I see the member for Townsville nodding. I know how passionate he is about schools.

There is a strong choice when it comes to the difference between us and them. This is a government that will restore front-line services and make a record investment—\$9.8 billion—in Queensland schools this year, because we understand that an investment in education is an investment in Queensland's future.

We know that if Tim Nicholls ever got back on this side of the parliament he would go back to his same old script of 'cut, sell, sack'. We also know that the honourable member for Clayfield, Tim Nicholls, is cut from the same cloth as Campbell Newman. They cut, sacked and sold. That is their record. Labor will fight the LNP cuts every single day of the week. We will restore front-line services in Education, just like we have done in Health.

Hospitals, Unexpected Deaths

Mr MANDER: My question is to the Premier. What is the procedure for handling the evidence of unexpected deaths of patients in Queensland hospitals? Is the Premier aware of any recent breaches of this policy?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I am more than happy to take that question on notice. The health minister is here. I am quite sure—

An opposition member interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Honestly, it is a very technical question and I am happy to get the answer for the member. I do not have that level of detail at my fingertips.

Interruption.

PRIVILEGE

Question to be Taken on Notice

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (11.12 am): Mr Speaker, I rise on a matter of privilege. I ask the Premier to confirm, pursuant to standing order 113(3), that my question is taken on notice and an answer will be provided to the House in accordance with that standing order.

Mr HINCHLIFFE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I know that opposition members have this on their script for each question, but if the member listened to the Premier when she answered the question he would know that the Premier said that she would take it on notice and get back to him. She said that she would take it on notice. She said that.

Mr SPEAKER: I find that it is reasonable for the member to seek clarification of whether the Premier will provide a response under the standing orders. That is in order. I think the Premier has indicated that she will provide that by the next sitting day.

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School staffing campaign

In its 2012 Budget, the state government funded only 270 additional teachers, teacher-aides and support staff, even though an estimated 837 were needed to cater for enrolment growth in 2013.

The shortfall, amounting to 569 full-time equivalent positions, is being funded by redirecting staffing allocations previously used by schools to limit class sizes, provide early literacy support and allow schools to offer a broader curriculum.

The result is that schools are operating with reduced teacher numbers, despite having an equal or greater number of students.

Education Minister John-Paul Langbroek has been reported as dismissing these staffing cuts as "minor adjustments", but QTU members are campaigning to make it clear that these "adjustments" are having major repercussions in our schools and that they will not tolerate penny-pinching at the expense of providing quality, well-resourced education to our students.

Find out how you can take part in the campaign by reading the Newsflash (8 Feb 2013).

Campaign News

Petition launched calling for changes to the staffing model to be reversed

28 March 2013 : Also in this issue, find time to "give a gonski" during the school holidays

Government yet to hear the message on school staffing

8 Feb 2013: As the state government's staffing cuts begin to bite, QTU members need to make it clear to the Education Minister that these "adjustments" are having major repercussions in our schools. Read more ...

8 Feb 2013 : Staffing shortfalls start biting in schools

QTU President Kevin Bates : It seems that members' worst fears are becoming reality, with reports coming into the Union of prep classes of up to 32, subjects being dropped from high school offerings and contract teachers being "let go" purely due to budgetary constraints...

12 Sep 2012 : Devils emerge from education budget detail

The Queensland Teachers' Union has warned that state schools will be hit even harder than expected by the state budget.

Queensland Teachers' Journal articles

Staffing: no excuse for under resourcing

16 Nov 2012 : With the release of its first budget, the Newman government brought into question its commitment to the continuing provision of adequate resourcing for schools...

Newman government's first budget contains little good news for education

5 October 2012 : The first Newman government State Budget, brought down on 11 September, confirmed the cut and slash fiscal and economic strategy foreshadowed in the so-called Independent Commission of Audit Interim Report...

Additional allocation process

Application for additional staffing to regions – post Day 8

Union reps should discuss the impact of staffing cuts with principals and other school leaders. Schools affected by budget cuts can apply to their region for an additional allocation through the Application for Additional Staffing Allocation form. Each region will produce a form to be completed by the principal of the particular school, outlining such issues as:

- the reason for the application
- details of the employee type and period requested
- current and proposed class arrangements or the other impacts of the cuts
- detailed and comprehensive explanation for the reasons behind the application

For further information, please read the Union Rep Update issued on 25 January 2013

Union Rep resources

25 Jan 2013 : Staffing campaign

Union Rep Update: In term four of 2012, the QTU initiated a staffing campaign in response to Newman government budget cuts to teacher staffing allocations amounting to 569 full-time equivalent positions across Queensland.

Class size