



MEDIA RELEASE

Date: 25 May 2012

For Immediate Release

LNP HOLD FAST TO BOOSTING TEACHER AIDS IN PREP

As promised in their March Election campaign, the LNP recently announced the first schools to receive a boost in Prep teacher aides, and Member for Hinchinbrook Andrew Cripps has eagerly welcomed the announcement.

"I firmly believe that by boosting early childhood education, important foundations can be laid in literacy and numeracy standards," Mr Cripps said.

"As a result of this announcement, our youngest students will have the best start to their education, and frontline teachers will receive enhanced support to enable them to do what they do best - teach."

"The \$54 million program has been launched by targeting Prep classes in areas of greatest need, including, but not limited to, rural and remote communities," he said.

The first schools to benefit in the Hinchinbrook Electorate are Cardwell, Forrest Beach, Kennedy Macknade, Mourilyan, Rollingstone, Silkwood and South Johnstone.

The initiative, beginning at the start of the 2013 school year will:

- extend to the first 154 classes in 107 schools across the state
- provide 2341 additional teacher aide hours a week in the 2013 school year
- build over the following three years to 9000 extra hours a week across the state, to allow more full-time aides working 25 hours a week.

Prep enrolments at the start of the 2013 school year will determine the exact allocation of teacher aide hours to selected schools, but this important commitment from the LNP is the first step in providing a greater level of care and learning to Prep students.

"We are pleased to deliver a major election promise within our first 100 days in Government," Mr Cripps said.

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