

EDUCATION MINISTER: We have a new Auslan interpreter. Who's this?

AUSLAN INTERPRETER: Danny.

EDUCATION MINISTER: Hello, Danny. I like to introduce the interpreter so that way they have to talk about themselves and describe themselves. Hello, Danny. It's lovely to see you and Mikey Webb, who is probably Queensland's best known Auslan interpreter, who, of course, came to great fame during the Covid era. And the reason I know Mikey so well and now Danny, is because I was Shadow Minister for Disability Services and Multiculturalism in the last Parliament, and I would do lots of citizenship ceremonies, and Mikey was often there, and he's actually like a rock star amongst Auslan interpreters.

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EDUCATION MINISTER: And to my mind, the word inclusion has now been misinterpreted by a lot of people, and doesn't mean all the time and everywhere. And that's the thing that I know special education leaders or youth will tell me that, and I see it, I mean. And one of the things that some of the critics of what we have announced have said is 'disability Royal Commission is split'.

And of course, I've had advice that of the three who suggested that special schools should be eliminated, they didn't really have any ... And I don't want to misquote people, misquote their background, but my advice is, they didn't have a lot of experience with intellectual disability. They had a lot of experience in physical disability. So that's one reason. But of course, when people just hear about a Royal Commission, 'oh, the report said, you know, they should, it was split. They should be eliminated and get rid of those schools' And there's, again, someone saying off thread. Well, you know, this is what that says. So people, go off half cocked, I think is the important thing. Good luck doing half cocked, Danny.

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EDUCATION MINISTER: The other important part that we've announced in the budget is \$222 million for more teachers, better education, on the commitment to provide more OTs, speech language pathologists and physiotherapists, excuse me, and I, as I said, I mentioned, saw a couple of those OTs yesterday when I was at Woody Point.

OTs, by the way, were, as I mentioned, to these very young OTs. They were a great source of dating at university, because I was a dental student, and we all did anatomy together.

So back then, there were lots of blokes in dentistry, lots of women in physio and OT and we're in the anatomy lab looking at specimens together, which was a great way to say, hello. would you like to go and have a drink? That's a long time ago..."

