

018 ~~The bill also provides for the regulation of group training and principal employer organisations, or GTOs and PEOs. A GTO or PEO is an organisation that provides training and employment opportunities for apprentices and trainees. It does this by finding host employers. In some cases, an apprentice or trainee may work with multiple employers each week and in other cases the GTO or PEO may find a permanent host employer for the apprentice or trainee. The GTO or PEO remains the employer of the apprentice or trainee and is responsible for compliance with this bill. The bill updates the existing provisions in the VETE Act to recognise current practice in the regulation of GTOs and PEOs. The bill also incorporates a number of matters currently dealt with in forms, guidelines and procedures into one place to provide a clear and comprehensive system for the regulation of GTOs and PEOs.~~

~~The bill provides for the issue of certificates of achievement and implements a reform of this government that allows employees to use alternative training pathways to obtain recognised qualifications. Not every employee can commit to a three or four year apprenticeship. The certificate of achievement allows for a range of training experiences to be documented and recognised in accordance with government policy. This certificate of achievement can be used to demonstrate the completion of work based training, increasing employment opportunities for that person and helping employers to access the skills they need to grow their businesses.~~

~~The bill also repeals the Higher Education (General Provisions) Act 2008. Since 2012, the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency, or TEQSA, established under Commonwealth legislation, has regulated the higher education sector. State governments no longer have a role in the regulation of higher education providers. The Higher Education (General Provisions) Act 2008 was used by the Queensland government when it regulated higher education providers. As all higher education providers in Queensland are now regulated under Commonwealth legislation, this act is no longer necessary and can be repealed.~~

~~The Department of Education, Training and Employment has conducted preliminary consultation on reforms proposed in this bill with stakeholders in the training sector and received some initial positive feedback. In order to progress this bill as soon as possible and deliver the benefits of reduced red tape to industry, the government did not release a consultation draft of the bill. The government welcomes comments from stakeholders on the bill and anticipates that the examination of this bill by a committee of this House will allow further feedback to be provided. I commend the bill to the House.~~

First Reading

~~Hon. JH LANGBROEK (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (Minister for Education, Training and Employment) (12.21 pm): I move—~~

~~That the bill be now read a first time.~~

~~Question put—That the bill be now read a first time.~~

~~Motion agreed to.~~


~~Bill read a first time.~~

Referral to the Education and Innovation Committee

~~Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr Robinson): Order! In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Education and Innovation Committee.~~

QUEENSLAND TRAINING ASSETS MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY BILL

Introduction

 **Hon. TL MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works) (12.22 pm): I present a bill for an act about the management of state owned training assets for the provision of vocational education and training, in accordance with sound commercial principles, and for related purposes. I table the bill and explanatory notes. I nominate the Transport, Housing and Local Government Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Queensland Training Assets Management Authority Bill 2014.

Tabled paper: Queensland Training Assets Management Authority Bill 2014, explanatory notes.

This bill delivers on the Queensland government's commitment to boosting front-line services and marks an important point on the road towards a new and improved vocational education and training sector, otherwise known as VET. Last year, my colleague the Minister for Education announced major reforms to the VET sector. Through this bill, the Queensland government continues that program of reform by giving all existing and prospective training organisations equal access to VET facilities, which in recent times have been substantially underutilised.

The government understands the link between the state's economic growth and the skills of its people. Within the first 100 days of office, this government commissioned the Skills and Training Taskforce, the first ever industry-led review of Queensland's vocational education and training sector. The task force concluded that there was significant room for improvement in the way VET is provided in this state. Specifically, the experts said that Queensland's TAFE structure and facilities management reduced its competitiveness. A major contributor to this problem was that the majority of our TAFE assets are grossly underutilised.

For example, let us take a look across the river: we have a beautiful facility at South Bank. It is one of the best VET facilities in the nation. It is modern, and it is located on the edge of the CBD and close to public transport. Despite all of that, it is used only 51 per cent of the time. Between 6 pm and 9 pm, which are the traditional night-class times, it is empty 95 per cent of the time. The public-private partnership agreement for that facility, put in place by the previous government, has forecast cash outflows of \$1.3 billion over the remaining life of the agreement to 2039. Those sorts of numbers do not stack up next to utilization rates that struggle to hit 50 per cent. South Bank TAFE is not alone. TAFEs across the state are 60 per cent empty. We can do better than this.

One of the recommendations of the independent Commission of Audit was that asset management should be separated from TAFE and transferred to a specialist entity with skills and expertise in owning and managing those kinds of assets. By creating a new body to manage the property side of things, we can free up TAFE to concentrate on doing what it does best: the delivery of vocational education and training services. In the VET sector, the ability to deliver effective training often depends on access to appropriate facilities. Sadly, those facilities are frequently out of the reach of otherwise qualified trainers. However, when our state's TAFE assets are sitting dormant more than 50 per cent of the time, it is nothing more than common sense to make those assets available to other registered training providers, as well as keeping them freely available to TAFE.

This legislation will pave the way to allowing existing or prospective non-government training organisations to expand the availability of VET, particularly in regional areas. To that end, this bill will establish an independent body, the Queensland Training Asset Management Authority, or QTAMA, to provide for the efficient and effective management of state owned training facilities primarily for the provision of vocational education and training. The bill achieves those objectives by establishing QTAMA to be the specialist owner and manager of the state's training assets, with an experienced board appointed by the Governor in Council; and to enhance competition and improve utilization by providing access to state training assets to all registered training organisations on a non-discriminatory commercial basis. A statutory body was chosen as the most appropriate vehicle for QTAMA because it is an independent body under the government umbrella that can be directed by an experienced board while having a strong governance framework. This board will consider all options on how to improve use by attracting existing and prospective trainers, and will look at various lease-rental options for those trainers based on their needs and circumstances. Establishing QTAMA as a statutory body allows the government to retain oversight of its investment in training assets through the governance, accountability and reporting framework provided for in the bill.

The VET sector is undergoing major reform all around Australia and initiatives such as this prove that Queensland is leading the way. This bill will lead to the creation of a stronger and more sustainable way of managing our training infrastructure and has the capacity to substantially boost the availability of VET in the regions. I for one think this is a thoroughly worthy goal. I commend this bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. TL MANDER (Everton—LNP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works) (12.27 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

Question put—That the bill be now read a first time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.


Referral to the Transport, Housing and Local Government Committee

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr Robinson): Order! In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Transport, Housing and Local Government Committee.

~~DISABILITY SERVICES (RESTRICTIVE PRACTICES) AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL~~

~~Resumed from 20 November 2013 (see p. 4056).~~

Second Reading

 **Hon. TE DAVIS** (Aspley LNP) (Minister for Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services) (12.27 pm): I move —

~~That the bill be now read a second time.~~

~~I thank the Health and Community Services Committee for its consideration of the Disability Services (Restrictive Practices) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2013. I also thank everyone who took the time to make a submission to the committee. I now table a copy of the government's response to that report.~~

~~Tabled paper: Health and Community Services Committee: Report No. 37—Disability Services (Restrictive Practices) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2013, government response.~~

019 ~~While the set of amendments in this bill are modest, their significance cannot be underestimated. All the amendments are directed towards achieving benefits for clients. These benefits will flow from improving plans, increasing safeguards, and enabling and supporting service providers to focus their attention on client service, rather than red tape.~~

~~The committee has made 11 recommendations. I am very pleased that the first recommendation is to recommend the passage of the bill, which supports the rights of clients who are subject to restrictive practices. This bill is the culmination of a review of the framework that regulates the use of restrictive practices, such as seclusion and restraint. These practices respond to the care needs of adults with intellectual and cognitive disability. The regulation system for such practices is designed to support a positive behaviour support approach and to reduce or eliminate the need for restrictive practices for the client.~~

~~This is such an important policy area to get right. Too little regulation and oversight can have negative impacts on the rights and quality of life of a relatively vulnerable group of people. However, too much regulation can actually get in the way of having quality supports delivered to clients. In this review we have worked hard to get the balance right. We have made some important changes to enhance safeguards, empower adults and their families, ensure we have an effective reporting and monitoring system and remove red tape to enable service providers to focus their time on the direct client supports. These changes are also being supported by a comprehensive range of educational, training and practice reforms. These reforms will be led by the Centre of Excellence for Clinical Innovation and Behaviour Support. The centre will assist clients and family members as well as service providers.~~

~~I will now address the committee's specific recommendations which include reference to these broader reforms. With regard to recommendation 2, the committee recommends that I inform the parliament about the impact of the restrictive practices framework on clients who receive self-directed funding, particularly whether the costs incurred by host providers to comply with the legislation will be paid from an individual's self-directed funding and who would be responsible for preparation of a positive behaviour support plan for an individual who uses self-directed funding to purchase services from several service providers.~~

~~The Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services is committed to providing greater choice and control for people with disability. The Your Life Your Choice self-directed support framework places choice and control in the hands of clients and helps prepare them for the NDIS. As more people choose to self-direct their supports through Your Life Your Choice, service providers will start to receive more of their funding from host providers or directly from a person with a disability, rather than through grants issued by the department.~~