

~~CBD and Centenary. That is unsustainable. It has been ignored by the LNP city council for too long and requires action. The LNP council has had a clear majority for a decade and the mayoralty of Brisbane for 13 years and more. The Walter Taylor Bridge and local road networks are 100 per cent their responsibility and yet we have seen absolutely nothing from them.~~

~~They have ignored the Chelmer, Graceville, Sherwood and Tennyson communities for many four year terms in office going back to the mayoralty of Campbell Newman and including the current mayor, Graham Quirk, and a number of years when Campbell Newman's right hand man, the member for Clayfield, Tim Nicholls, was a councillor on the Brisbane City Council and in the civic cabinet as the councillor for the Hamilton ward. Yet the LNP city council is very happy to approve seven-storey buildings in nearby Sherwood and pocket the rates windfall from it. Do they spend it in the local area to upgrade infrastructure to deal with the extra traffic that they are causing? Of course they do not. They spend it and much more \$650 million, in fact turning Kingsford Smith Drive in Ascot coincidentally in the electorate of Clayfield, the seat of the current opposition leader who is a former close colleague of Graham Quirk and Campbell Newman from two lanes into three lanes. Meanwhile in my part of the city the one lane at Walter Taylor Bridge is absolutely ignored by the Brisbane City Council. This northside pork barrel of old LNP councillor mates Graham Quirk, Campbell Newman and opposition leader Tim Nicholls with more than half a billion dollars of ratepayer funds is a disgrace at the expense of every local resident of Graceville, Chelmer, Sherwood and Tennyson.~~

~~Even if a decision were made today, it would be at least four years before anything was built, with traffic worsening every year. The neglect set in long ago during Campbell Newman's reign as mayor between 2004 and 2011 when nothing happened at all. When it comes to this part of the city, the LNP has a disgraceful record of neglect, ripping off the area, approving high density development in Sherwood and spending southside ratepayers' funds on the north side at the expense of local amenity. Has the current three term LNP state member for Indooroopilly stood up for his local constituents to his own party in the city council? Not at all not a word. In stark contrast, it was great to see real community advocates Ali King and Jess Pugh at the public meeting on Saturday that I called in Graceville with 100 people attending. The member for Indooroopilly was nowhere to be seen and neither was the current LNP candidate who ignored the issue as well.~~

~~There is strong public support for a second bridge on the downstream side of the current bridges. The large majority LNP city council needs to stop neglecting Chelmer, Graceville, Sherwood and Tennyson, get on with it and do some design and engineering work to look at solutions including how to best integrate it with local road networks for the best community outcome. That work needs to be put out to the community for genuine two-way consultation to ensure the community benefits fully from any project and to ensure the best possible outcome locally.~~

~~This matter must no longer be neglected and ignored by the LNP city council, which has sat on its hands and funnelled large sums of ratepayer funds to the north side. I call on the LNP city council to do their job, stop ignoring proposed Miller electorate residents and current Indooroopilly electorate residents in Chelmer, Sherwood, Graceville and Tennyson, let alone the broader community on the south side in communities like Oxley, Corinda and north of the river in Indooroopilly and surrounding suburbs. I say to the council and to Councillor Simmonds, who says that we have to wait a lot longer, 'Let's get the work done. Let's integrate it with nearby roadwork and get cracking because you have ignored the area for long enough.'~~

~~**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Crawford): Order! The time for matters of public interest has expired.~~

EDUCATION (OVERSEAS STUDENTS) BILL

Introduction



Hon. KJ JONES (Ashgrove—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism, Major Events and the Commonwealth Games) (12.53 pm): I present a bill for an act to provide for the approval of schools to provide courses to overseas students and the approval of schools and not-for-profit organisations to provide international secondary student exchange programs, to repeal the Education (Overseas Students) Act 1996, and to amend this act, the Education (General Provisions) Act 2006, the Education (Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority) Act 2014, and the Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act 2000 for particular purposes. I table the bill and the explanatory notes. I nominate the Education, Tourism, Innovation and Small Business Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Education (Overseas Students) Bill 2017.

Tabled paper: Education (Overseas Students) Bill 2017, explanatory notes.

I am pleased to introduce the Education (Overseas Students) Bill 2017 into the House today. The bill replaces the Education (Overseas Students) Act 1996 with modern legislation that reflects the national framework for the regulation of providers of courses to overseas students and introduces a statutory regime for the regulation of international secondary student exchange organisations.

The bill is also an important step towards the introduction of Queensland's new senior assessment and tertiary entrance systems. In October 2016, the government committed to introduce new senior assessment and tertiary entrance systems for Queensland students commencing year 11 in 2019. The reforms are the biggest change to senior secondary education in decades. They will affect more than 50,000 school students each year.

The government has engaged extensively with the education community to ensure the new systems meet the needs of Queensland students. Development of the new arrangements has been guided by representatives of all three schooling sectors, parent groups, secondary principals associations, teacher unions and tertiary institutions. The new senior assessment system will build on the strengths of Queensland's current school based assessment approach. Teachers will continue to use their professional judgment to design and administer school based assessments. However, new processes will be introduced to help teachers to prepare and administer the highest quality school assessments for students.

Under the new systems, school based assessments will be complemented by an external assessment for most senior subjects. These external assessments will be administered and marked by the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority, the QCAA. In addition, current overall position tertiary ranks will be replaced with an ATAR, Australian tertiary admission rank. This will bring Queensland into line with other states. The Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre, QTAC, will be responsible for issuing the ATARs.

The bill ensures that the QCAA is able to deliver on the Queensland government's commitment to introduce new senior assessment and tertiary entrance systems that will serve Queensland senior students into the future. The amendments ensure that the QCAA has the power to undertake functions required to implement the new systems. Specifically, the bill provides the QCAA with new functions to endorse school based assessments for senior subjects; review samples of marked school based assessments to ensure reliability of the grades that have been awarded; analyse results of school based assessment and external assessment to detect anomalies; and administer and mark external assessments for senior subjects.

The bill also allows the QCAA to provide information to QTAC for the purpose of generating ATARs for eligible students and informing students of their ranking. All schooling sectors, the QCAA and QTAC were consulted and support the bill. The QCAA is working in consultation with the schooling sectors to develop new procedures to support the new senior assessment systems. It is anticipated that draft procedures will be finalised by early 2018. The QCAA's establishing legislation allows the authority to develop guidelines about its functions. The legislation includes extensive regulation-making powers which are enhanced under the bill to allow for regulation about the new senior assessment functions. Once the QCAA's procedures for delivering the new senior assessment system are settled, there will be further consideration about what detail, if any, will need to be prescribed in regulation to support the reforms.

I now return to the new regulatory regime for providers of courses to overseas students and student exchange programs. International education is Australia's third largest export. While the majority of this export revenue comes from the tertiary and training sectors, the schooling sector also provides education services to overseas students wishing to undertake their school education in Australia. These students often continue to undertake tertiary education in Australia.

The bill modernises the regulation of school providers of education to overseas students and ensures that Queensland will continue to offer safe education opportunities for international students. The regulation of providers of education to overseas students is a cooperative model of shared responsibility between the Australian and Queensland governments. In accordance with the requirements under the Commonwealth Education Services for Overseas Students Act 2000, providers of education to overseas students must be registered on the Commonwealth Register of Institutions and Courses for Overseas Students, commonly referred to as CRICOS. Providers must comply with requirements under the Commonwealth act and the National Code of Practice for Providers of Education and Training to Overseas Students.

Queensland has a role under the cooperative national framework for approving school providers as the first stage of CRICOS registration and undertaking monitoring and enforcement activities. There are just over 100 non-state schools and 150 state schools that provide education to overseas students in Queensland. Queensland has had state based legislation—the Education (Overseas Students) Act 1996—regulating providers of courses to overseas students since the mid-nineties.

The Queensland Act does not reflect the state's role in the national framework or provide the Department of Education and Training with appropriate powers to monitor compliance with the commonwealth Act and national code. It also enshrines duplicative regulatory processes, requiring Queensland to maintain a separate state based register of Queensland school providers of courses to overseas students. The bill introduces a new legislative scheme that better reflects Queensland's role and responsibilities under the national framework and provides the appropriate powers for the state to monitor compliance.

International secondary student exchange programs offer Australian students the opportunity to attend a high school in another country and, under similar conditions, students from other countries may undertake studies in Australia. The programs are managed on a state-by-state basis with reciprocity of exchange accepted in lieu of payment of school tuition fees. In 2016 about 160 international students and 190 Queensland students participated in student exchange programs. There are 23 organisations registered in Queensland to provide these exchanges, comprising 10 non-state schools, one state school, and 12 not-for-profit entities such as Rotary.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the Speaker has reviewed the introductory speech. Under standing order 25, I seek leave to have the remainder of my speech incorporated in Hansard.

Leave granted.

Consistent with the approach taken in Victoria and Tasmania, the Bill introduces a legislative regime to regulate international student exchange organisations.

Introducing a statutory regime will provide regulatory oversight commensurate with the level of risk associated with student exchanges.

It will safeguard the welfare of international exchange students coming to Queensland to study and Queensland students travelling overseas on exchanges. It will also protect Australia's reputation as a destination for international education and training.

It should provide parents of both overseas and Queensland exchange students a level of comfort that appropriate protections are in place to ensure the safety and wellbeing of their children when they travel to study through an approved exchange program.

The new legislative regime reflects the current administrative regime based on the National Guidelines for the Operation of International Secondary Exchange Programs in Australia (the National Guidelines).

The Bill provides the power for the Director-General of the Department of Education and Training to make guidelines, which will outline the standards required of approved exchange organisations. The guidelines will be based on the National Guidelines with modification to meet specific Queensland circumstances, such as requirements about working with children.

The new legislative regime will not impose new or additional requirements on providers and will not impact on short-term cultural exchanges that occur under visitor visa arrangements.

All existing student exchange organisations were consulted during development of the Bill as was the industry peak body, the Council of Australian Student Exchange Organisations, which gave strong support for the Bill.

I commend the Bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. KJ JONES (Ashgrove—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism, Major Events and the Commonwealth Games) (1.00 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, Tourism, Innovation and Small Business Committee

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Crawford): In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Education, Tourism, Innovation and Small Business Committee.

~~Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.30 pm.~~