

Executive Summary

About the Bill

The Education (General Provisions) Amendment Bill 2025 proposes to amend the *Education (General Provisions) Act 2006* and other legislation to reduce the regulatory burden and red tape on schools, parents and students by:

- streamlining student access to online services for digital learning
- extending the age eligibility of students in home education to 31 December in the year the student turns 18
- allowing separate Parent and Citizens' (P&C) Associations for schools with multiple campuses and enabling donations between P&Cs under special circumstances
- further clarifying the provision of information by non-state schools to the Department of Education in relation to school attendance and enrolment
- further clarifying the eligibility criteria of children to access eKindy
- implementing a recommendation of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse (Royal Commission) in relation to information sharing between Queensland schools when students transfer; and
- amending Queensland statutes by making minor and technical amendments.

The committee has recommended that the Bill be passed.

The committee called for and received 34 written submissions, held a public briefing with the Department of Education, and a public hearing with selected stakeholders.

There was general support from stakeholders for the reforms proposed by the Bill.

The committee notes the commentary provided with regard to streamlining student access to online learning services, and the vigorous but qualified support for the reforms to the age eligibility of students in home education. The committee notes the support for reforms relating to eKindy, the sharing of transfer notes and other information, and the reforms to streamline aspects of the administration of P&Cs; provided these reforms reduce the regulatory burden on schools.

The committee is also cognisant of the issues raised by stakeholders in relation to the school disciplinary absence process, despite those issues being outside the scope of the Bill.

In addition to recommending that the Bill be passed, the committee made a second recommendation, that there be further consideration around the extension of the age eligibility of students in home education by 6 months, to 31 December in the year the student turns 18 *and 6 months*.

Legislative compliance

The committee's task was to consider the policy to be achieved by the legislation and the application of fundamental legislative principles – that is, to consider whether the Bill has sufficient regard to the rights and liberties of individuals, and to the institution of Parliament. The committee also examined the Bill for compatibility with human rights in accordance with the *Human Rights Act 2019*.

The committee concluded that the Bill was compatible with the *Legislative Standards Act 1992* and the *Human Rights Act 2019*.