

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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Submission to Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee, Queensland Parliament

Dear Hon Mark Bailey MP

I am a Religious Instruction Coordinator in the Bundaberg area. I understand the Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee is currently reviewing proposed changes to the Education (General Provisions) Act 2006 and one of these proposed changes has as its aim to support and protect students by:

“facilitating proactive and proportionate sharing of information when a student transfers between Queensland schools”.

I understand that current arrangements are that when a student transfers between state schools, personal information about the student is transferred between schools, including name, address, health, custody information etc, but information about a student’s Religious Instruction (RI) consent is excluded and is not transferred between schools.

I believe transferring RI information with students, along side all of the other data that is transferred, would be a more efficient and streamlined process for parents, as well as minimising workload in schools.

We are therefore seeking:

- that the Government supports and protects parental consent for children in relation to RI by ensuring RI information and consent remains in effect when students are transferred between state schools, in the same way that RI consent remains in effect within state schools across year levels.
- That the only circumstance when information about a student’s consent into RI is to be no longer held is when a parent withdraws that consent in writing.

Kind Regards

Pauline Merefieid

RI Coordinator for Bundaberg State School

25 March 2024