



Queensland Catholic Education Commission

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Response to Education and Innovation Committee Inquiry into the Education Legislation Amendment Bill 2013.

23 May 2013

Introduction:

The Queensland Catholic Education Commission (QCEC) thanks Chair of the Education and Innovation Committee for the opportunity to provide comment on the Inquiry into the Education Legislation Amendment Bill 2013.

QCEC is the peak body at state level for twenty-two Catholic school employing authorities with 296 schools, 141,000 students and 17,000 staff.

The Commission notes that two aspects of the amendments impact directly on Catholic schools in Queensland. The Queensland Catholic Education Commission supports the intent of the amendments to legislation to enable the inclusion of Year 7 in the definition of a secondary school from 2015 and to ensure there is a simple administrative process to support Catholic Schooling Authorities and their schools accommodate the move of year 7 to secondary in 2015.

Consultations:

QCEC has appreciated the opportunity to provide comment to officers of the Department of Education, Training and Employment during the preparation of the amendments. During that consultation process, QCEC raised a number of issues including;

1. Will the “written notice in the approved form” enable Catholic diocesan schooling authorities with large numbers of schools to submit one notice with details of each separate school change rather than separate individual notices for every school under their governance?
2. How will it be ensured that all schools are able to be processed and provided with appropriate notification in time for student intake day 2015?
3. During the first year of operating year 7 in a secondary school, will schools be provisionally accredited or accredited for that year?

QCEC was assured by officers of the Department that Year 7 Change Notice (Point 1) will support a simple and efficient process, that there will be sufficient time to process applications (Point 2) and that

secondary schools that have full accreditation currently for year 8-12 will have full accreditation for years 7 -12 from 2015 (Point 3). On this final point, it would be appreciated if it could be confirmed that this will in fact be the effect of the legislation as drafted.

Conclusion:

QCEC supports the intent of the Education Legislation Amendment Bill 2013 and is working collaboratively with all stake holders to ensure a smooth and efficient transfer of year 7 to secondary in 2015.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. J. Byrne".

Mike Byrne
Executive Director