



Speech by

ANDREW McNAMARA

MEMBER FOR HERVEY BAY

Hansard 3 December 2002

EDUCATION [MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS] BILL

Mr McNAMARA (Hervey Bay—ALP) (2.37 p.m.): It is a delight to rise to speak to the Education (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill 2002. I will be supporting this bill, as indeed I expect most members of this House will. It is very good legislation. It addresses a range of important issues and I am delighted to support it. I note that the bill amends 11 acts. I propose to confine my comments to those four acts that relate to primary and secondary schooling in particular, although I certainly support the other amendments that are made in relation to public universities and extending democracy within the system for placing people on senates and various committees at universities.

I welcome the amendments that are designed to ensure the equitable and transparent treatment of all non-state schools as well as improving the efficiency of accreditation of non-state schools. This year, the Glendyne Farm and Youth Training Centre in Hervey Bay gained accreditation as a non-state school. I thank the Minister for Education for the close attention and assistance that she gave to having Glendyne's application approved. I know from my frequent visits to Glendyne and the regular advice that I have received from its manager, Ray Krueger, that it is an organisation that puts every cent that it can into its kids. It is an excellent non-state school and achieving non-state school accreditation has allowed Glendyne to stabilise its cash flow. I know that, as Glendyne also has an unending list of planned additions to the school, those streamlined procedures for the assessment of sites will certainly be welcomed as it expands its operations over the years.

I also welcome, as I am sure will all members of this place, the amendments this bill makes to the Education (General Provisions) Act to include an explicit power for the minister to seek a criminal history report regarding persons who wish to teach at an international educational institution. It is a point that probably does not need labouring, but in the current climate there is no doubt that the public of Queensland, parents and teachers expect very close supervision of people who work with our children. I welcome that reform. I also take this opportunity to endorse the Education Training Reforms for the Future and the provisions which this bill makes for preparatory year trials from 2003 to 2005. With those few comments, I commend the bill to the House.