



Speech by

## Peta-Kaye Croft

MEMBER FOR BROADWATER

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### EDUCATION LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

**Ms CROFT** (Broadwater—ALP) (3.24 pm): It is my pleasure this afternoon to rise to speak in support of the Education Legislation Amendment Bill 2006. This bill proposes to make amendments to introduce the new Queensland Certificate of Education. To achieve the Queensland Certificate of Education students will be required to bank 20 credit points in their individual student accounts. Of those 20 credits students must achieve, at least 12 must come from core courses of study such as senior secondary subjects traditionally taught at schools, for example English and maths. The remaining eight credits can come from a combination of core and other courses such as vocational education, work experience, university subjects or recognised certificates in areas such as music, sport and drama.

As the Queensland Certificate of Education is a school based certificate, at least one of the credits must be from core studies while the person is enrolled in school. Students who do not achieve sufficient credit points to be awarded the QCE at the end of year 12 will still be able to gain a certificate at a later date. The banking system operated by the QSA will keep a student's learning account open until they have participated in enough courses of study, training or work to receive the QCE. Only studies that are quality assured by the QSA will count towards a certificate and the QSA will continually monitor the credit allocation process to ensure that credit points are allocated in a fair and equitable way and reflect the amount of work involved and the minimum standards required.

Students will continue to receive a record of studies in year 11 and 12, now to be called the senior statement, even if they do not qualify for the QCE. The aim is to have more young people stay on and complete year 12 or its equivalent, to stay engaged in our schooling system or to be earning or learning. The system is created to be flexible, catering to the needs and aspirations of all students.

I wish to briefly comment on the fantastic work that my local high school does in building relationships with local businesses in the area to enable students to carry out their studies and also gain credit points towards a certificate in hospitality or other industry. The Coombabah High School this year signed up 55 school based trainees all completing their certificate II or higher in their chosen field. There are quite a number of students enrolled in certificate courses at school. In year 12 this year there were 113 students and 225 year 11 students completing some kind of certificate course with two students attending TAFE one day per week.

This new system that has been introduced for students is a lot different to the way it was when I went to school but it is certainly going a long way to ensuring that students are a step ahead when they are finishing school and that they get a feel for what they would like to do later in life. From all reports and from speaking with parents and students at the school, it is working very well. I am pleased to support this bill today.