



Speech by

Hon. Rod Welford

MEMBER FOR EVERTON

Hansard Tuesday, 30 October 2007

EDUCATION LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Hon. RJ WELFORD (Everton—ALP) (Minister for Education and Training and Minister for the Arts) (12.36 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

The Education Legislation Amendment Bill will amend the Education (Queensland Studies Authority) Act 2002 to enable the Queensland Studies Authority to develop and administer common national tests in literacy and numeracy. These tests, which will take place for the first time across Australia in May next year for students in years 3, 5, 7 and 9, will provide a useful measure of how Queensland schools and students are performing in the areas of literacy and numeracy.

The passage of this bill will enable the Queensland Studies Authority to participate in the development or revision of the tests, implement procedures for administering the tests and mark the tests. Also, it will enable the authority to analyse systemic information about the performance of persons who undertake the tests and report the results of the analysis to me as minister, the chief executive of my department, the Independent Schools Queensland and the Queensland Catholic Education Commission. The authority will also give the principal of a school individual results of the school's students who undertake the tests and will give a person who undertakes the test the person's results in the tests.

The bill will also amend the Education (Queensland College of Teachers) Act 2005 to replace the term 'professional learning' with the term 'professional development'. The term 'professional learning', as it is used in the act in the terms 'continuing professional learning' and 'professional learning program', in my view does not accurately describe the types of activities that teachers are required to undertake. The shift to 'professional development' will mean the terminology used in the act more accurately reflects the types of skills enhancement activities that must be undertaken by teachers and which I encourage. I commend the bill to the House.