



Speech by

Shane Knuth

MEMBER FOR DALRYMPLE

Hansard Tuesday, 6 October 2009

EDUCATION LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL AND EDUCATION AND TRAINING LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Mr KNUTH (Dalrymple—LNP) (9.56 pm): In speaking to the Education and Training Legislation Amendment Bill, I acknowledge the minister's intention to streamline—

Mr Dempsey: How much is enough?

Mr Schwarten: How much?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for Bundaberg.

Mr Schwarten: Just gratuitous waffle.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Minister!

Mr Schwarten: No offer.

Mr Dempsey interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I am on my feet. I will ask the member for Bundaberg to withdraw that unparliamentary comment.

Mr DEMPSEY: I withdraw that comment.

Mr Schwarten interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Minister, the member for Dalrymple has the call.

Mr DEMPSEY: I rise to a point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker. What was the word—parrot? Was it parrot or was it to do with brains because if brains were rubber bands they could be wrapped around a parrot's ankle.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for Bundaberg.

Mr DEMPSEY: I withdraw.

Mr Hinchliffe: It's a bit too late to come back at that point.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr Schwarten: No wonder the coppers got rid of you.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mr Schwarten: No offer; no guts.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Minister!

Mr Dempsey interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for Bundaberg, you leave me no option but to warn you. This is it. The member for Dalrymple has the call. Any further interjections will be treated that way.

Mr Schwarten interjected.

Mr DEMPSEY: I rise to a point of order. I take offence and I ask the minister to withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister, he has asked you to withdraw.

Mr SCHWARTEN: I withdraw, Mr Deputy Speaker. I don't like him winking at me.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister, withdraw unreservedly.

Mr SCHWARTEN: I withdraw. I ask him to stop winking at me across the chamber. It is quite embarrassing.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister, I will ask you to withdraw again unreservedly.

Mr SCHWARTEN: I withdraw unreservedly, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. The member for Dalrymple has the call.

Mr KNUTH: I acknowledge the minister's intention to streamline early childhood education to the universal high-quality system that advantages all Queensland students. The prep program at 35 schools in Indigenous communities approved by the minister allows children older than 3½ years to be registered in the program and provides a foundation of literacy and numeracy in the prep years.

The prohibition of the term 'prep' in any presentation by child-care providers would remove the assumption that child-care providers are able to provide formal prep year education. It is encouraging to note that registered children in both the pre-prep program and children with disabilities provided with special education who are not prep students will be included under the program available to other students. I am familiar with children with disabilities such as cerebral palsy, spina bifida and short stature. These are vulnerable children who are capable of achieving academic heights and strong life skills who can become major contributors to our community.