




Speech by

Dr Bruce Flegg

MEMBER FOR MOGGILL

Hansard Thursday, 16 February 2012

DISTANCE EDUCATION

 **Dr FLEGG** (Moggill—LNP) (3.48 pm): I rise to raise the issue of the disgraceful lack of preparation, resources and support for distance education students in the rollout of C2C and to call on this government to take urgent action to remedy this. It is not only the Brisbane School of Distance Education but others around the state that have been unable to start the school year on time. They have been supplied with material such as digital MySticks which are full of bugs and do not work properly for the students. They are heavily reliant on the internet, which causes problems where there are only satellite connections. Surely the least this government could have done was to make sure their resources worked.

The government has rushed the rollout of national curriculum and left students and their carers to deal with faulty technology with little or no support. The minister's chief of staff has been replying to people that they are reviewing the distance education materials and they are developing materials for multilevel classes. Our students that study under distance education are not guinea pigs. These materials should have been completed and working effectively before they were rolled out for students of distance education.

If we have a look at the feedback that has been given by parents and teachers who are teaching in these areas, we can see that it is damning. They talk about the MySticks not working properly and that they have very little support. One parent said, 'We were promised all the digital links on our MySticks would be embedded so that they did not require internet connection to view. This has not been the case and even to download a weekly spelling test required me to connect to the internet. The new curriculum has been imposed on us before it has been fully written, with the result that the work I am meant to teach my children tomorrow has not even arrived.'

(Time expired)