




Speech by

Jo-Ann Miller

MEMBER FOR BUNDAMBA

Hansard Thursday, 21 June 2012

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING (COMMONWEALTH POWERS) BILL

 **Mrs MILLER** (Bundamba—ALP) (4.09 pm): It gives me great pleasure to rise today in support of the Vocational Education and Training (Commonwealth Powers) Bill 2012. I would just like to place on the record of the parliament today my wholehearted support for the Bremer Institute of TAFE. The Bremer offers vocational education and training in advanced diploma courses, diploma courses and certificate levels 1 to 4, which assists its students from entry level qualifications through to supervisory roles. There is an array of courses from community services and health, hospitality, events management, information technology, retail business and also the trades including automotive, building and construction, horticulture and bricklaying. I could go on and on in relation to the courses that the Bremer TAFE offers.

We also have big TAFE campuses at Bundamba and also one in my electorate of Springfield, which is growing very strongly. I would like to thank the Minister for Education for being out there the other day. He had a look around the Bremer TAFE and also USQ and the different schools. In fact, I invited the minister to come back and have a look at our wonderful state schools as well, and he assured me that he will so we will organise that. We also have the Goodna campus, which is a tiny, wee little house. I have to tell honourable members that it is very good because it teaches our multicultural people who have come into Australia—like our Sudanese and our other cultural groups—English language, and that is very, very important.

I want to place on record my support for Bremer TAFE. I also want to place on record my support for TAFE teachers, for all the administrative staff and the thousands and thousands of students who, over a long period, have graduated from Bremer TAFE. I want to table a *Courier-Mail* article dated 21 June 2012 in relation to the future of Bremer TAFE. This article states that the Bremer TAFE has been talking to the Gold Coast TAFE college, the Toowoomba TAFE college and the Moreton South TAFE college and we would like to know why. Why have they been talking? The reasons are all set out in this *Courier-Mail* article. It states that Bremer TAFE could become a subset of the Moreton South TAFE on the Gold Coast. It also could become a subset of the Toowoomba TAFE. It could become a subset of Moreton South Institute of TAFE. Therefore, we could lose the name 'Bremer TAFE' and we could be lost in the LNP's mad system of crazy budget cuts.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Courier-Mail*, dated 7 June 2012, titled 'Ipswich's Bremer Institute of TAFE may merge with MSIT as Campbell Newman faces question from Jo-Ann Miller' [[387](#)].

I brought this to the attention of the House when I asked the Premier a question. The minister was away at the time which is why it was directed to the Premier. The important thing is that the people of Ipswich want to maintain our Bremer TAFE as it is. Where were the member for Ipswich and the member for Ipswich West, also known as the 'member for Manhattan'? They have stayed silent. They have gaffer tape around their mouths which was put there by the Premier and the ministers. They have not said a word about the future of Bremer TAFE. They have been zipped up, silent—absolutely silent. They have not come out publicly to fight for Bremer TAFE because they do not give a rat's. That is the truth. They do not care. They do not care about keeping the name 'Bremer TAFE'; which is iconic in our city of Ipswich. They do not care.

I want the Bremer TAFE expanded. When the minister came out to Springfield the other day he was left in no uncertain terms that our community wants Bremer TAFE expanded into the Springfield community. Why? We told the minister why, because you can go to school in my local area. You can then do a certificate or a diploma at the Bremer institute at Springfield and then you can go next door to the University of Southern Queensland and do a degree course. What a great facility that would be in our area—absolutely fantastic. The students, the residents and the parents are very concerned about the future of Bremer TAFE. What we have here is an e-petition—

Mr STEVENS: I rise to a point of order. The member for Bundamba has clearly strayed into other areas and away from the bill that is before us today. I ask you to keep her relevant to the bill at hand.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Miss Barton): Order! I ask that the member remain relevant to the bill at hand.

Mrs MILLER: I was waiting for this one—relevance!

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I ask that the member remain relevant. Please continue.

Mrs MILLER: Thank you very much for your protection. I am going to continue in relation to clauses 385 and 386 of the bill. As I was saying about training in my local area, what we have here is an e-petition in relation to Bremer TAFE because it is so good and so wonderful. The e-petition is a test for the MPs for Ipswich, Ipswich West, Lockyer and Mount Ommaney. Will you sign the petition and stand up for Ipswich and the people in the western corridor? Every day I will be checking it to see if your names are on it. Let me say also to the member for Ipswich West: you should hang your head in shame because, according to the parliamentary website you have been employed for 22 years in relation to vocational education and training. He of all people should be fighting hard for the Bremer TAFE, yet he is as quiet as a church mouse.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for Bundamba, I ask you to direct all your comments through the chair, please.

Mrs MILLER: I shall do. My apologies. In relation to training, we have to be assured that our Bremer Institute of TAFE will stay local in Ipswich. The Ipswich people want to know where these one-term wonders are going to be on this.

Mr LANGBROEK: I rise to a point of order. Madam Deputy Speaker, I ask for your ruling about relevance to whatever clause it was that the honourable member referred to because it has nothing to do with TAFE mergers. If the member wants to make a submission to the Skills and Training Taskforce she should do so, but her contribution here has nothing to do with the bill.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: I order that the member for Bundamba remain relevant to the legislation and the bill at hand.

Mrs MILLER: Thank you for your protection, Madam Deputy Speaker. The minister said that to me last week. He can wait for my submission; it will be on its way. I am asking that the members for Ipswich and Ipswich West fight for what is right, because they do not have it in them. I commend the bill to the House.