




Speech by

Michael Crandon

MEMBER FOR COOMERA

Hansard Wednesday, 14 November 2012

EDUCATION LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (4.43 pm): I rise to make a brief contribution to the Education Legislation Amendment Bill 2012. The process of passing legislation in the House has been much improved in recent times. An important part of that process is the committee system. This bill highlights the importance of the committee system, as can be seen from the way the minister has embraced the recommendations of the committee.

I want to note a few points. First of all, the bill was referred to the committee on 21 August 2012. Almost three months later, on 14 November, the bill is now before the House with its key objectives having been considered by the committee system. Those key objectives are to enable state schools of distance education to deliver an e-kindy program to eligible children, allow children to adopt new national professional standards for teachers, ensure that teachers who fail to report likely future sexual abuse of a student will not be subject to criminal sanctions, and remove the requirement that students permanently excluded from state schools receive annual written notice that they may make a submission to have the exclusion revoked. I note that the last key objective is about the Newman government's commitment to removing red tape from the system right across the system and to divert the funds that are saved into areas that are far more beneficial to Queenslanders into front-line services.

The committee recommendations are another important part of the system. Recommendation 1 states—

That the Education Legislation Amendment Bill 2012 be passed.

That is a prerequisite of the report of the committee. The first recommendation has to be that the committee recommends the bill be passed. That is a natural one, but I note that the government supports recommendation 2 of the committee regarding the Department of Education, Training and Employment and training and resources materials et cetera. The committee made four recommendations. I have mentioned the first and second recommendations. Recommendations 3 and 4 have already been discussed in the House. I will not go over them again, but I note again that the recommendations have been accepted by the minister and by the department.

That is the point of this committee system. That is the reason I wanted to speak today: to highlight the benefit of the new system and the way in which the new system is improving the legislation that is being passed through this House. In the past in previous parliaments, and certainly in the first 2½ years of the last parliament, I saw—and we all saw—so many bills come into this place with fundamental flaws. We argued with the then government to try to get some of those flaws resolved but often it was to no avail. Very few changes were made to any of the legislation that came before this place. But now we have a bipartisan committee system and that bipartisan committee system is working. It has been developed appropriately across both sides of the House, and it is an open forum for people to have discussion, and logical and common-sense recommendations come forward from that.

As we see here with this bill, it is an ideal bill to look at as a case in point that the committee system is working. I have no doubt that the bill has been fully scrutinised by the people of Queensland and certainly by the committee. As a result, we now have something that we are not going to have to readdress at some time in the near future. We have something that will stand the test of time. I commend the bill to the House.