




Speech By  
**Hon. John-Paul Langbroek**

**MEMBER FOR SURFERS PARADISE**

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**EDUCATION AND CARE SERVICES BILL**

**Second Reading**

 **Hon. JH LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (Minister for Education, Training and Employment) (6.17 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

I would like to thank the Education and Innovation Committee for its report on the Education and Care Services Bill 2013, tabled on 8 August 2013. The committee recommended that the bill be passed and the government is pleased to accept this recommendation. I would like to take this opportunity to respond to some of the comments made in the committee's report and provide some additional information.

In a submission on the bill the Early Childhood Teachers Association raised concerns about the drafting of clause 116 and the possibility that two 17-year-old staff members could be left to supervise children at a Queensland education and care service. This was not the policy intent and I can advise the House that I will be moving amendments during the consideration in detail stage to clarify this provision and ensure that a 17-year-old staff member is always supervised by an adult staff member. This is consistent with current practice under the Child Care Act 2002 and deals with the committee's concerns as expressed in their report.

The committee also noted that some matters of detail were not included in the bill and will be prescribed in the regulation. I would like to assure the committee that the approach being taken in the bill and regulation is consistent with current legislative drafting practice in Queensland. The bill includes the key elements of the regulatory system such as decisions, approvals and obligations on providers. The regulation will prescribe details such as qualifications required, physical and other requirements for a service, staffing ratios, fees and other matters. These matters are currently prescribed in the Child Care Regulation 2003 so the bill and proposed regulation take a similar approach.

I can advise members that a consultation draft of the regulation will be distributed to affected services and made available on request to the public through the Get Involved website. The Department of Education, Training and Employment will provide a copy of the regulation and explanatory paper to the committee and will be available to provide a briefing if the committee so requests. The department followed this same process for the development of the bill and received valuable feedback from stakeholders.

In addition to the amendment I referred to earlier, I propose to move a number of minor and technical amendments to provisions in the bill. These amendments will ensure that the bill accurately reflects the government's policy and corrects some minor errors in the drafting of the bill.

This bill is consistent with this government's approach to regulation of reducing the burden on services while maintaining quality and safeguards. Queensland education and care services will benefit from a modern regulatory framework and reductions in administrative burden such as the removal of the requirement to reapply for a licence every three years. The bill also ensures that children receiving education and care in services not regulated under the national law receive quality care in a safe and supportive environment. I commend this bill to the House.