




Speech By
Mark Boothman

MEMBER FOR ALBERT

APPROPRIATION BILLS: EDUCATION AND INNOVATION COMMITTEE

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Albert—LNP) (9.46 pm): I wish to thank both ministers and their departments for their informative responses to the committee on Tuesday, 23 July. I also wish to thank my committee chair Rosemary Menkens, my fellow committee members and research staff.

The world is continuously changing, and we are buffeted by a never-ending stream of information through changing technology and globalisation. I would like to quote Peter Drucker, an individual who contributed to the philosophical and practical foundations of the modern business corporation. He said—

Today knowledge has power. It controls access to opportunity and advancement.

We need to keep pace with our changing world, and we need to be proactive to help our educators craft the minds of the next generation. Failure to do so is no option. Under the Great Teachers = Great Results initiative, the Newman government is committed to raising the professional standards of the state teaching workforce. This can be done by pairing new teachers entering into the profession with experienced teachers who have a proven track record. Another key aspect of Great Teachers = Great Results is supporting our school leaders and teachers to undertake a graduation program in a relevant field of endeavour. This creates a new layer of efficiency when it comes to moulding the minds of the next generation. It allows for best teaching practices and the assimilation of new technologies into the classroom.

Independent state schools are another cornerstone of Great Teachers = Great Results. This creates a flexible environment and allows principals to make decisions that best suit their local communities. I should add that this includes a high degree of accountability; we do not just set the school free. The department will work in collaboration with the schools to maximise learning outcomes. This is a great policy that will lift teaching standards through a proactive approach and give schools more flexibility to meet the demands of a continually changing world.

This government will invest \$507 million over five years on top of the \$6 billion annual current spending on education—of a total of \$11.4 billion for this portfolio. This government is getting on with the job and supporting our great education facilities. Yesterday I had the honour of visiting one of the absolutely fantastic educational facilities in my electorate. With my federal colleague Mr Bert van Manen, the member for Forde, we attended the opening of new facilities at the Coomera Anglican College. This college has to be one of the best private schools in Queensland. I should add that the college was founded by the late Ivan Gibbs and opened in 1997. Ivan Gibbs was a state government minister for 10 years, yet he regarded the creation of the Coomera Anglican College as his greatest achievement—a school which was certainly very dear to his heart.

This government is getting on with the job of building education facilities to meet future demands. I thank the department for providing additional classrooms for Norfolk Village State School, a new car park for Cedar Creek State School, much needed funding for Gaven State School to install covered walkways, and new car-parking facilities for Windaroo Valley State High School.

Preparing students to meet the demands of the current and future job markets is paramount for any forward-thinking government. On 1 July 2013 TAFE Queensland became a new independent statutory body to meet the demands of vocational education and training. This has given TAFE the flexibility to operate in an efficient and effective manner by moving from a supply driven to a demand driven model to achieve real job outcomes. Training individuals in courses with limited employment outcomes only constrains suitable career pathways and limits the economy. The Newman government is committed to building a four-pillar economy and will meet the challenges this entails. A commercially focused TAFE Queensland with the flexibility to deliver services, reduce costs and streamline training programs will certainly train the next generation of workers.

The future is our youth. Preparing them for challenges ahead is crucial to maintain our high living standards. Focusing and developing our economic strengths through efficiencies in education and developing business focused policies only enhances employment prospects. I thank the minister, my fellow committee members and the committee chair, Rosemary Menkens. I am very proud to be on the education committee.