




Speech By
Hon. David Crisafulli

MEMBER FOR MUNDINGBURRA

Record of Proceedings, 12 February 2014

EDUCATION (QUEENSLAND CURRICULUM AND ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY) BILL

 **Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Mundingburra—LNP) (Minister for Local Government, Community Recovery and Resilience) (6.05 pm): Mr Deputy Speaker, thank you for the opportunity to speak after my good friend the member for Albert. He has set a wonderful example of the dedication of a local member. In my time in public life, both in this place and as deputy mayor, which I have enjoyed immensely, I thought I had done some pretty reasonable hard yards, but never have I spoken to a school principal at midnight. That is a fairly high bar to set and proof of just how good the member for Albert really is.

I support the Education (Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority) Bill 2013 and the replacement of the Queensland Studies Authority with a new curriculum authority. I rise in support of the bill because I think it is good legislation from a good government that cares about education.

Our government's support for education in Queensland has been unwavering, as has been the determination of the member for Kawana in many of the things that he has addressed. We only have to look at the announcement two weeks ago of the Great Results Guarantee—I will touch on that very briefly shortly—to see that support. The amendments to this legislation are just another example of our ongoing commitment to schools and their teachers and students. The bill provides a new legislative framework and revitalised curriculum and assessment authority.

The Queensland Studies Authority operates under legislation that is now over a decade old. It predates the establishment of the Australian Curriculum and Assessment Authority and the development of the Australian Curriculum. We all know that our teachers do an amazing job on the front line delivering this curriculum to the kids. They set our children up with vital skills and it is important that we give them every opportunity to be the best possible educators they can be.

These changes ensure that the new curriculum can be overseen properly. For example, unlike the existing QSA Act, the bill includes a specific function to support schools in implementing that curriculum. It also streamlines and simplifies a number of the operational processes set out under the QSA Act, such as processes for the establishment and operation of student accounts. Of course, the previous government had their chance to make these changes when they were in power and did not, but I do acknowledge their support for this bill this evening.

I will make the point that there was some talk before about the composition of the board and the fact that there is not a huge union influence anymore. This is about outcomes. This is about children. It is not about political deals. It is not about making sure there are jobs for mates. It is about getting the right outcome. That is what this does. We have always said that, wherever possible, we will devolve power back to the communities, to the real people—people who are there and want to serve at the grassroots level.

I want to briefly touch on the announcement of the Great Results Guarantee and what is in it for my electorate of Mundingburra. I want to briefly run through my schools and the commitment that was made. The commitment was as follows—I am rounding it to the nearest thousand: Aitkenvale, \$138,000; Annandale, \$195,000; Cranbrook, the first school I went to as a local government councillor, \$128,000; Currajong, \$193,000—

Mr Hathaway interjected.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I will acknowledge that and I will acknowledge the presence of the member for Townsville. We do share a boundary, but, member for Townsville, the saying is 'close but no cigar'. It is in my electorate, thank you very much. The commitment continues as follows: Heatley Secondary College, \$87,000; Heatley State School, \$204,000; Mundingburra State School, \$209,000; Townsville Community Learning Centre, which is the state special school, \$52,000; Vincent State School, \$129,000. That is a total of about \$1.3 million. That does not include Pimlico, which is in the member for Townsville's electorate but well serviced by me.

This has been a great win for the community. I particularly want to acknowledge the enthusiasm that Heatley primary school's principal, Louise Wilkinson, afforded us when she heard the news. She is someone who is doing an incredible job with that school, which is in a very low socioeconomic area, is very disadvantaged and has a large percentage of children with a disability. It is a wonderful school and she does an absolutely amazing job. To hear her enthusiasm about some of things she seeks to achieve with her funding is very exciting.

In closing, I applaud the Minister for Education, Training and Employment. I will not enter into the removal of hats, as the member for Albert sought to do. It is an outstanding piece of legislation. It establishes a robust new Curriculum and Assessment Authority, which will operate to a modern standard, and is from a government that cares about education.