




Speech By
Deb Frecklington

MEMBER FOR NANANGO

Record of Proceedings, 12 February 2014

**EDUCATION (QUEENSLAND CURRICULUM AND ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY)
BILL**

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (5.22 pm): I rise to support the Education (Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority) Bill 2013 and thank the Minister for Education, Training and Employment, the Hon. John-Paul Langbroek, for bringing this bill before the House and for also providing Queenslanders with amazing improvements in the educational sector since becoming the Minister for Education almost two years ago. It is also important to note the contribution of Rosemary Menkens, the member for Burdekin, in reviewing the bill. I note that her committee, through its hard work, has recommended that this bill be passed.

It is extremely important to have an opportunity in the House today to talk about the amazing improvements in terms of the education system. This bill is something that our government is doing to ensure that we are continuing to improve education of all of our children, because that is what we promised to do. As a can-do government we have promised to improve the educational outcomes for all Queensland children, and debating this bill in the House today is just one small step towards that. However, I do note—and I will touch on it later in my speech—that there have been just some amazing improvements, particularly improvements in the amount of funding that our can-do government has provided for education in this great state of Queensland. I thank the Minister for Education for his hard work in that regard.

In the context of significant changes occurring within the education system, in particular the introduction of the Australian Curriculum, as a parent of three school-aged children it is really important to note that we need to move with the times. The previous authority was called the Queensland Studies Authority. Whilst we need to thank it for its contribution, it is clear that this legislation is required because the legislative framework that the previous authority worked under was quite out of date given that it was over 10 years old. Obviously that has prompted the decision to establish the new body, the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority.

Whilst this new statutory body is responsible for numerous things such as syllabus development, it is really an interesting key to what is actually happening in the education space. Whilst I get to speak to numerous teachers around my electorate—and I note that there are some 36 schools in the great electorate of Nanango—I understand that, while the introduction of this new national curriculum is a positive move, it also has been a great challenge to implement such a major change. That is why I am happy to support the establishment of this new authority as it will play a pivotal role in helping to change our educational landscape in Queensland and supporting our teachers under a new, modern legislative framework.

While I am speaking about the amazing work that the good teachers do in the Nanango electorate, I want to quickly congratulate our senior students who graduated from grade 12 in 2013. If you reside within the Nanango electorate, you have the opportunity to go to either Kingaroy, Nanango, Kilcoy or Toogoolawah state high schools as well as St Mary's Catholic College. After meeting many of our graduates at presentation nights around the region last year, I know that our future is in very good hands. For example, the Kingaroy State High School senior dux Thomas

Stevens received an OP1 and has elected to study electrical engineering at the Australian Defence Force Academy in Canberra. Another four students at Kingaroy State High achieved a score of OP2, including Lauren Cross and our international women's cricketer Holly Ferling. She got an OP2 whilst doing two international tours during year 12. I very much look forward to introducing young Holly Ferling to the Minister for Education, who has made time in his very busy schedule to meet with young Holly Ferling next month, and thank you, Minister, for making the time, because I believe she will be an amazing ambassador for state highs across the state. Also achieving an OP2 at Kingaroy State High were Jess Elford and Karl Humphreys. At St Mary's in Kingaroy, of the OP eligible students, 25 per cent received an OP between 1 and 5 and 93 per cent received an OP between 1 and 15.

Mrs Menkens: And I used to teach at Nanango high school.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: It is really interesting to note the amazing success of Nanango State High. The committee chair, Mrs Rosemary Menkens, contributed very well to that school as she was a teacher there—

Mrs Menkens: A long time ago.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON:—apparently a long time ago, but maybe that was the foundation—

Honourable members interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Mrs Menkens clearly understands where I came from when I said that.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Ruthenberg): Member for Nanango, would you like to withdraw that statement? Please continue.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I withdraw. Mrs Rosemary Menkens—

Dr DOUGLAS: Mr Deputy Speaker, I found that comment offensive and I ask that it be withdrawn.

An honourable member interjected.

Dr DOUGLAS: It is not so much about Mrs Menkens. I am sure that if it was withdrawn it would be recorded fairly, that Mrs Menkens—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Gaven, while your intention is honourable, unfortunately you cannot ask for a withdrawal on behalf of somebody else. If the member for Nanango would continue.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I withdraw. It is the wonderful contributions of great teachers like Mrs Menkens that produce great results. The other issue that is really important for me to note is that the education minister, along with Dr John McVeigh, the Minister for Agriculture, has enabled Toogoolawah State High to become an agricultural state high.

This is just amazing. Last year, 93 per cent of that school's senior students achieved a QCE and 80 per cent received an OP of between 1 and 15. I apologise because I went off track a little bit when talking about Nanango State High School. I needed to say that 10 per cent of the senior students there received an OP of 1 to 5 whilst 55 per cent of senior students achieved an OP of between 6 and 15. But most importantly, 100 per cent of Nanango State High School senior students received their QCE certificate. That is an amazing result for my region.

Ultimately, this bill is all about achieving these types of results. It is helping to shape the best possible education system for our children so that they have the best possible opportunity to live their dreams and achieve to the best of their ability. If we can help set up a system that allows teachers to get on with the job of teaching without worrying about the administrative systems involved in creating a good syllabus, then that is worth supporting.

In the small amount of time remaining to me, it is important that I note our government's amazing Great Results funding, which is all about achieving better student outcomes. The great electorate of Nanango was extremely lucky because I am able to announce, thanks to the hard work of the education minister, \$1.8 million worth of Great Results funding into that electorate. I hear members opposite talk about us supporting only the top end of town. That offends me. Small schools in my electorate have received large amounts of Great Results funding. Crows Nest State School is one of the Flying Start schools. We are working towards the Australian Curriculum through Flying Start. That school received \$65,000. Nanango State High School received \$52,000. Kilcoy State High School received \$146,000. Kingaroy State School received \$137,000. Some small schools did not miss out either. Unfortunately, my list is too long for me to rattle off here today, but Coolabunia State School received \$30,000. This school achieved 100 per cent in the Premier's Reading Challenge. This school really needs congratulating.

I again thank the Minister for Education for bringing this bill before the House. I am really proud to be a member of this can-do government so that I can stand up here and support this legislation.