




Speech By  
**Rob Molhoek**

**MEMBER FOR SOUTHPORT**

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### **TRANSPORT AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (4.55 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Transport and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017. I note the committee recommendations and, in particular, their first recommendation that the bill be passed. Like the member for Yeerongpilly and others, I do not intend to speak at any great length. Suffice it to say this bill is a practical measure being undertaken by the department. There are a great many young people out there who do have difficulty finding a meaningful source of identification that they can use when applying for things online or when travelling around and conducting their day-to-day affairs. If I can be a little indulgent and have a dad moment: as the father of four sons, I know that there have been many occasions when they have needed some form of formal identification. On occasions they have been issued with a student card by their school which has more often than not been sufficient, but there is nothing quite like getting their first learner's permit and having a more tangible form of identification that comes from a government agency.

Sadly, in this day and age there are many young people who, for all sorts of reasons, do not go off at 16 years of age with that sense of excitement and anticipation that many of us did in our younger days to secure a learner's permit. There are significant impediments to many of these young people. For some, their home life and their family circumstances make it somewhat restrictive for them to do so. There have been many of my sons' mates over the years who, when I have sat down with them and had one of those heart-to-hearts and asked, 'What's going on? How come you are not going for your driver's licence? How come you have not applied for your learner's?', have sadly shared that either it has been out of their reach in terms of affordability or it has been difficult because they are living with a grandparent or perhaps living with someone else outside of a normal family environment. On some occasions they are living with their mum and they are having to work part-time to help support the family budget and their younger siblings.

I am pleased to see this initiative because what it means for those 15-, 16- and 17-year-olds who do not go down the normal path that so many other young people do of going for a learner's permit or eventually getting their driver's licence at 17 is they at least have access to a form of identification that will carry them through a fairly critical season in their life and that more than compensates for the lack of getting a student ID card or some other form of identification.

I note that the member for Chatsworth and the member for Gympie raised some concerns around the cost of the card.

**Ms Leahy** interjected.

**Mr MOLHOEK:** The member for Warrego also raised that point. For those of us in the House, \$66 probably does not seem like a huge cost, but I know for my sons and for many of their mates the prospect of paying \$66 for a card is expensive. I do hope that the minister will take those comments on board, look at what has happened in other jurisdictions and look at the possibility of reducing that cost or at least making some provision for hardship cases so that it is more affordable for young people to acquire those cards.

I was pleased to see that PACT, Protect All Children Today, wrote in support of the proposed introduction of the card. I note also that RACQ have registered their support. That is so like RACQ: they are always on the front foot providing very practical support for good initiatives, and this is a good initiative. I am sure there are many other organisations out there. I was reflecting on the interchanges that I had with the Create Foundation, which works with so many disadvantaged young people across Queensland in partnership with our Child Safety Services. I am sure that the Create Foundation and organisations like it will also welcome the fact that the government is doing something very practical to provide our young people with what is a very simple thing but, nonetheless, is a very important form of identification and access to something that can be logged and registered within the transport system. It provides a pathway of identification into the future.