




Speech By  
**Brittany Lauga**

**MEMBER FOR KEPPEL**

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### **EDUCATION (OVERSEAS STUDENTS) BILL**

 **Mrs LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (5.47 pm): The bill before the House today modernises the regulation of providers of courses to overseas students, establishes a new legislative regime for the regulation of providers of international student exchange programs and supports the implementation of the new senior assessment and tertiary entrance systems. This is the same package of legislative amendments that was introduced into the last parliament through the Education (Overseas Students) Bill 2017.

The substantive amendments contained in this bill were contained in the Education (Overseas Students) Bill 2017 and considered by the former Education, Tourism, Innovation and Small Business Committee. I thank those members of the former committee for their consideration of the 2017 bill and the stakeholders who provided submissions to the former committee.

On 15 September 2017, the former committee tabled its report on the 2017 bill and in that report the former committee made three recommendations for amendment. These recommendations were considered in the development of this bill. In response, one amendment has been made to the previous 2017 bill to limit the use of information or documents obtained when the privilege against self-incrimination is waived to proceedings relating to the false or misleading nature of the document and proceedings for offences under the act and the Commonwealth act. This amendment aims to provide the protections sought by the former committee while also ensuring the capacity of the regulator to effectively monitor compliance with the scheme and protecting Queensland's reputation as a destination for international students and education.

The Education (Overseas Students) Bill 2018 creates a new regime for the regulation of providers of courses to overseas students and international student exchange programs, provides the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority with functions to administer the new senior assessment and tertiary entrance systems for students entering year 11 in 2019, amends the Trading (Allowable Hours) Act 1990 and makes other minor and technical miscellaneous amendments.

On 18 October 2016, the Palaszczuk government committed to introduce new senior assessment and tertiary entrance systems for Queensland students commencing year 11 in 2019. The reforms are the most significant changes to Queensland's senior assessment and tertiary entrance processes in over 20 years and will affect more than 50,000 year 12 students each year.

The new senior assessment arrangements will combine the flexibility of school based assessment, set and marked by classroom teachers, and the comparability of external subject based assessment, set and marked by the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority, the QCAA. Under this approach, results in senior QCAA subjects will be based on three school based assessments and one external assessment. The external assessment will generally contribute 50 per cent of the overall subject result in mathematics and science subjects and 25 per cent of the subject result in other subject areas. Reliance upon the professional judgement of teachers is a key strength of Queensland's current school based assessment system. The new processes will build on this strength by supporting teachers in the design and administration of high-quality school assessments.

The new tertiary entrance arrangements will see Queensland move from the current overall position, OP, year 12 tertiary rank to the Australian Tertiary Admission Rank, ATAR, as used in other Australian states and territories. The Queensland core skills test, which is currently used to support the calculation of the OP, will no longer be required. When we roll out the new system in 2019, we want to get it right and ensure that it remains strong for many years to come. We want what is best for Queensland students, so our government took the advice of our key education stakeholders because we will not risk rushing this reform process. We will deliver a world-class curriculum and learning and assessment system for teachers, students, parents and the wider community.

The Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre, QTAC, will generate ATARs for Queensland students under the new system. QTAC provides centralised tertiary application services for a range of tertiary institutions, including Queensland's seven public universities, Bond University and TAFE Queensland. The bill amends the QCAA functions to ensure it has the powers to deliver the new senior assessment system and the ability to share student results with QTAC for the purpose of tertiary entrance. The reforms to the senior assessment and tertiary entrance systems are the result of extensive consultation with education stakeholders and have been informed through the work of a ministerial Senior Secondary Assessment Taskforce with members from the Catholic, independent and state schooling sectors, parent groups, secondary principals associations, teacher unions and tertiary institutions. I am pleased that all schooling sectors, the QCAA and QTAC support the bill. I commend the bill to the House.