




Speech By
David Crisafulli

MEMBER FOR BROADWATER

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EDUCATION (QUEENSLAND COLLEGE OF TEACHERS) AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (11.56 am): I rise to speak in support of the Education (Queensland College of Teachers) Amendment Bill 2019. If we boil it down, this bill provides a certification process for high-performing teachers. If we have to pinpoint what that means, it means career advancement without the teacher having to leave the classroom. That is a wonderful and worthy objective that is worth supporting.

When we talk to people who are in public service across all professions, often we hear from them a reticence to progress through the ranks because it curtails the reason they entered that profession in the first place. Many police officers are happy to stay as a senior constable—not because they do not want more duties, not because they do not want to do other things in their career, but because they do not want to be stuck behind a desk. I certainly respect what drove them towards joining that service and that they do not want that to stop.

So it is with teachers. Many teachers have an opportunity to be the head of their school year. They have many opportunities to advance their careers, but their real passion is children and ensuring that each and every day they are able to shape the lives of those children in their classrooms. That does not for one moment in any way highlight that people cannot make a contribution without being in the classroom. From the principals to the janitors in our schools, everyone helps to provide an environment to make sure that our greatest asset, our children, are able to learn. There are those who do not want to leave the classroom, because that was their calling; that was the reason they embarked on that profession. This bill gives those teachers the ability to have the best of both worlds. So it is that I rise to speak in great support of this bill.

I say to our teachers across the state, and in particular to those in my electorate—I have the privilege of having three schools in my electorate: two state schools and a Catholic school—you are involved in a noble profession; you are involved in a profession that truly is valued and helps shape the kind of state we want into the future. This side of the House believes in an education system that rewards the best and brightest, that helps those who need a helping hand, a curriculum that is simplified and the ability to attend an independent public school. It is my pleasure to have the member for Surfers Paradise in the chamber at this time, the person who was the architect of that policy, a policy that works and a policy that I would always defend to ensure that it stays in this state because it allows for choice and we should all be about that.

I will conclude my remarks by saying that, while this bill highlights teaching standards, it would be remiss of me not to raise the issue of the standard of facilities in our schools. I will not stop fighting for the two state schools in my electorate where I do not believe the facilities are adequate and up to standard. Our teachers certainly are up to standard. The principals in those schools are very different people but both outstanding people. The principal of Coombabah State School, Murray Gleadhill, and the principal of Biggera Waters State School, Valerie Faulks, are outstanding leaders. To watch them

walk through the school grounds and see the way they are revered by those children but also respected shows the incredible balance both of them have achieved. The facilities at their schools do not reflect the values that they set. The facilities do not reflect the quality of education given there. I will not stop in my fight for better facilities. That means a removal of buildings that were delivered on the back of a truck many decades before. They were probably not appropriate in that era, but they are certainly not appropriate in this era. I will not stop until those children have air conditioning in those schools.

Ms GRACE: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I rise on the issue of relevance. At the last debate, on page 1177 of *Hansard*, the member for Gregory raised a point of order in relation to relevance when the member for Gympie interjected in relation to the issue of air conditioning. It was ruled that it was irrelevant and I ask that you bring the member back to the relevance of the bill.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stevens): Member, if you could bring your conversation back to the long title of the bill.

Mr CRISAFULLI: Indeed I will. I would urge the education minister to assist me in praising the teachers and in supporting this bill and also looking to address some of those facility issues. I will conclude my remarks by saying that this is a worthy piece of legislation. It is a piece of legislation that enables a noble and valued profession to be given a little bit more choice and, above all, it allows career advancement without teachers having to permanently leave the classroom.