




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR MILLER

Record of Proceedings, 30 April 2019

EDUCATION (QUEENSLAND COLLEGE OF TEACHERS) AMENDMENT BILL

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (12.15 pm): I rise to support the bill, because access to and the provision of quality education are fundamental to us having a meritorious and equitable society where everybody can fulfil their potential. Everyone should be able to receive a quality education regardless of their background and status growing up. I am very much a proud product of the state school system and a good education. Everybody who seeks a good education and who puts in time and effort deserves outcomes. This bill will contribute to further improving our education system.

The bill provides for a nationally recognised certification framework in Queensland that recognises high-quality teachers and encourages them to continue their role as a classroom teacher. It enables the Queensland College of Teachers to perform the role of a certifying authority within the framework for the certification of highly accomplished teachers and lead teachers. It allows the college the provision to prescribe and collect fees for the purposes of assessment and certification, and it provides an effective and transparent certification process with decisions subject to appropriate review.

In short, we have to invest in our teachers. We have to retain them and give them every capacity to stay within the classroom if that is what they seek to do. It is fair to say that a lot of teachers have a calling and a passion for teaching, but they are also ordinary people with families and commitments. They ought to be able to progress through a career as other people can. This bill seeks to increase their capacity to have the career that they deserve, because, as other speakers have outlined, a lot of teachers put in a huge amount of effort outside normal working hours because they have such a passion for the job.

The bill invests absolutely in teachers and it recognises their leadership roles. There has been very strong collaboration with the Queensland College of Teachers, the Queensland Teachers Union and teachers, who are very supportive of the bill. This investment in them is reflected in the fact that from the pilot we now have 44 highly accomplished teachers and three lead teachers, and we are looking to increase that number. During the expressions of interest process that occurred last year, more than 800 teachers applied. I think that is a very good barometer for the level of interest in this reform. I am very encouraged to see that as it is very important to see teachers remain in the classroom.

I have a high school teaching degree in history and drama, which might surprise a few people. During my education some teachers had a profound influence on me and I take this opportunity to pay tribute to them. They were highly accomplished teachers and lead teachers in their time. I mention Graham Iffland from Holland Park State School and Carolyn Lingard from Cavendish Road State High School. I also mention two teachers who are no longer with us: Chas Cameron and Neville Adams were humanities teachers at Cavendish Road State High School. They were all incredible mentors and leaders with strong values. They all had a strong commitment to two-way engagement, which is what good teaching is about.

I pay tribute to them and all the teachers in my electorate who give so much every day to the education of people in the Miller electorate. I have 12 schools in my electorate. I have Junction Park State School, Wellers Hill State School, Sherwood State School and Graceville State School. At Milperra school, they teach migrants and get them up to speed on English. They perform a phenomenal feeder role into other schools, often getting kids who do not really know much English to an incredibly proficient stage often within 12 months, and in 15 months they are at Chelmer. They do a magnificent job and work closely with the other schools in my electorate. There is Christ the King, St Elizabeth's, St Sebastian's, Yeronga State High School, Yeronga State School, Mary Mac and also Our Ladies at Annerley.

I make it a priority to get to as many P&Cs and P&Fs as I can to engage. I also have regular coffees with my principals to be in touch with what is going on in my schools. I take this opportunity not just to support this bill but also to thank from the bottom of my heart all the principals, teachers, staff, teacher aides as well as the parents who put in so much for their kids and who give so much time to their P&Cs and P&Fs. Their community ensures that not just their children but everyone's kids get a great education as well. As we enter fete season, I know that all members will attend a lot of fetes in the next three or four months. We see that spirit in action. Thank you to all those people in the education sector in my electorate.

I thank the Minister for Education and the member for McConnel for bringing in this bill. It is an important reform, one that was an election commitment of this Palaszczuk Labor government. We value education. It is a core value of the government and this is part of our reforms. I acknowledge the bipartisan support on this occasion for our reforms, and I think that is a good thing. We have to continue to invest and ensure that our education system evolves, because pedagogy keeps moving and changing.

Graceville State School in my electorate is doing some fascinating things with collaboration with primary school kids so that by the time they go to high school they already want to collaborate and that it is natural to them. We will see more and more of that in schools, but one of the key things to do that is to ensure that teachers who want to stay in the classroom are supported to stay in the classroom and have the satisfaction of having a proper career with proper remuneration and status. That is what this bill seeks to do.

I am very proud to be part of the Palaszczuk Labor government that is delivering on its election commitments on education and that understands that a meritorious and accessible high-quality education system is fundamental to our democracy and to our society. This bill that the Minister for Education has brought in is an important plank in continuing that process, which will be an evolving and never-ending process, so let us keep making our education system better every year.