



Speech By
Terry James

MEMBER FOR MULGRAVE

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EDUCATION (GENERAL PROVISIONS) AMENDMENT BILL 2025

 **Mr JAMES** (Mulgrave—LNP) (7.31 pm): I stand before you to speak in favour of the Education (General Provisions) Amendment Bill 2025. We all know that our teachers and school administrators are being pushed to the limit by the cumbersome regulations they are currently forced to endure. I have visited many schools in the seat of Mulgrave and I know firsthand that teachers and school administrators are under serious pressure. Hopefully, this bill will assist in relieving this pressure.

The Education (General Provisions) Amendment Bill 2005 introduced into the Queensland parliament aims to reduce red tape and streamline administrative processes within the education system. The bill focuses on simplifying enrolment procedures, particularly for students transferring between special schools, and improving access to approved online learning services. It also addresses recommendations from the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse regarding information sharing between schools during student transfers.

Some key aspects of this bill include that we are simplifying regulations to ease the burdens. The bill aims to make processes more efficient for schools, parents and students, by reducing administrative tasks and clarifying regulatory requirements.

We aim to simplify the enrolment process. Principals will be able to officially transfer students between special schools, minimising delays and facilitating smoother transitions. The bill aims to improve digital learning access by clarifying the use of approved online services and simplifying resource access for students. The bill aims to extend home education registration eligibility to 31 December of the year a student turns 18. The Crisafulli government will ensure it is easier for schools to share information. The bill implements a recommendation from the royal commission related to information sharing between schools when students transfer.

The government will also support school P&Cs by allowing schools to have separate P&C associations where there are multiple campuses. This will allow P&Cs to move donations between those groups under specific circumstances.

The Crisafulli government is focused on giving all children a great start, encouraging young people in learning, creating safe and inclusive workplaces and investing in communities for a stronger Queensland. This government has been clear on the need to ensure that our principals, teachers and school communities are empowered to deliver improved educational outcomes for Queensland children. This includes identifying opportunities to reduce the administrative burden on teachers to allow them more time to focus on classroom teaching and ensure that schools are adequately resourced and authorised to maintain strong behavioural standards in Queensland schools.

Queensland state schools use various third-party online services to aid curriculum delivery, assessments, class collaboration, school operations and communications with parents. These services may require students' personal information for account registration and access such as names, birth dates, achievement data, email addresses and school data. Parents or students must provide consent for the use of personal information for each service. However, the current system has become overly burdensome for schools, teachers and parents.

Amendments to the Education (General Provisions) Act 2006, or E(GP)A, in the bill enable personal information about a student that is relevant to the set-up and use of online services to be recorded, used and disclosed by a Public Service employee of the department to an online service that has been approved by the chief executive. Personal information will not include sensitive information.

As I stated earlier, we are striving to make everything less cumbersome all round. The reforms in the bill will reduce the administrative burden on state schools, parents and students while balancing the importance of protecting student information. The proposed approved online services reforms will not commence for up to 12 months after the passage of the bill to ensure appropriate guidance and communication materials are in place prior to the implementation.

Another major achievement of this bill is in relation to home education eligibility. Improving access to educational choices for parents and students is a pillar of Queensland's education legislation. Students can access education through state schools, non-state schools, distance education and home education. Many students move between modes and sectors of education throughout their learning journey. The Crisafulli government supports parents in their choices about the best education pathways for their children. In addition, removing this barrier to home education registration for students who wish to continue to be registered in the year in which they turn 18 years of age will support parents and students by maintaining eligibility for student related financial supports and educational resources.

This bill will also enable principals to delegate the notification of suspension decisions. Principals have significant demands on their time and the current regulation does not allow a state school principal to delegate the telling of a suspension decision. Principals will still be the decision-maker but can delegate the message transfer.

Another provision of this bill reduces the regulatory burden on the principals of special schools, parents and students by streamlining the requirements related to enrolment transfers between special schools. The current system requires the special school student to undertake a new assessment each time they transfer. This is a crazy regulatory burden and unnecessary red tape on our principals and creates uncertainty for the student and their parents while they wait for enrolment decisions.

The part of the bill that I am most happy about is the way that it supports our hardworking volunteers in P&C groups. We all know that P&Cs work in partnership with their school principal and the community to promote the interests of the school and facilitate its development and further improvements to achieve the best possible outcome for students.

All the P&Cs I have visited work very hard to make their schools the best they can. This bill will support P&Cs in three specific ways to make their burden easier. The bill provides that prescribed schools and multiple campuses may establish a P&C at each campus. Secondly, it will empower P&Cs to move donations and resources between those groups under specific circumstances, especially when responding to local needs or emergencies like natural disasters, a reality we all know too well in Far North Queensland. Thirdly, this bill also supports the integrity of a P&C executive membership by precluding a person who has been convicted of an indictable offence from holding an executive membership role in a P&C, such as president or treasurer. All of these measures will relieve the regulatory burden on our schools and let them focus more time on their major application, which is helping our kids learn.

This bill is a robust first step in cutting red tape for teachers and principals, supporting students and school safety and delivering on the Crisafulli government's election commitments regarding education. It ensures that all Queensland children and young people, no matter where they live—in the city, the bush or remote communities—have access to a high-quality education system from now and into the future. These reforms underpin our commitment to equity, excellence and the opportunity for every child and every school community across Queensland. I support the bill.