



Speech By
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MEMBER FOR MOGGILL

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EDUCATION AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (3.46 pm): I rise to address the Education and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026. Education is one of the most important responsibilities of any state government. It shapes opportunities for young Queenslanders, supports families and communities, and helps build the skilled workforce our state needs into the future. While this legislation contains a range of legislative amendments across both the education and arts portfolios, what sits behind it is a broader commitment by the Crisafulli Liberal National Party state government to strengthen our education system, support our teachers, improve outcomes for students and ensure Queensland schools are well equipped for the future.

Importantly, these reforms are practical reforms. They seek to improve governance, reduce unnecessary administrative burden, support continuity of education, strengthen pathways for students who may be disengaged from learning, and ensure our legislative framework remains contemporary and fit for purpose. This legislation comes at a time when Queensland's education system is benefiting from significant investment and renewed focus.

The Crisafulli Liberal National Party state government delivered in its first six months what the former Labor state government failed to achieve in a decade: that is, securing an agreement with the Commonwealth to fully fund Queensland state schools. I heard the earlier contribution from the shadow minister for education, the Labor member for Bulimba, and I remind her that that was achieved by the member for Surfers Paradise and it is very important for students, parents, families and teachers here in Queensland. This agreement represents the largest investment in Queensland state schooling and provides certainty for schools, teachers, students and families well into the future.

Queenslanders have also seen a net increase of more than 1,000 additional teachers in Queensland state schools in a single year, surpassing the growth achieved over Labor's final four years in office. In fact today Queensland has the highest number of state school teachers in its history and the lowest teacher vacancy rate in five years. These are important and remarkable achievements made under the Crisafulli Liberal National Party state government because educational outcomes ultimately depend on having great teachers in our classrooms and ensuring schools have the support they need to focus on teaching and learning.

One of the consistent messages I hear from teachers, principals and school leaders is that they want to spend more time teaching and less time dealing with unnecessary administration. Teachers enter the profession because they want to educate young people, inspire learning and help students succeed into the future. They do not enter the profession to spend countless hours navigating unnecessary bureaucracy. That is why the Crisafulli LNP state government's commitment to reducing red tape by 25 per cent is such an important initiative. Through the Red Tape Reduction Plan, practical steps are being implemented to reduce administrative burden and allow teachers to focus on what matters most: supporting student learning and achievement.

Similarly, teachers and school leaders have consistently highlighted the increasing complexity of classroom environments and the growing need for additional support for student behaviour and wellbeing. The reality is that teachers deserve safe and respectful workplaces. In fact, everyone deserves a respectful and safe workplace. Students deserve safe and orderly classrooms and parents deserve confidence that their children can learn in environments that are conducive to educational success. That is why the Crisafulli LNP state government is delivering a nation-leading antibullying action plan and investing an additional \$45 million each year through Behaviour Boost funding. These initiatives provide schools with greater flexibility to engage—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kempton): Members, there is way too much chatter in the House. If you must persist, could you take your conversations outside.

Dr ROWAN: These initiatives provide schools with greater flexibility to engage behavioural specialists, strengthen support services, increase staff capability and respond to the individual needs of these school communities.

The LNP state government is also delivering on its commitment under the More Teachers, Better Education plan by investing in additional professional learning and specialist training opportunities for teachers supporting students with disability and diverse learning needs. This includes support for teachers undertaking further qualifications in areas such as autism studies, special education and inclusive education. These are practical investments that support teachers whilst delivering better outcomes for students.

As the local state member for Moggill, I see firsthand the extraordinary work undertaken by our schools, teachers, support staff and school communities. The Moggill electorate is fortunate to have excellent local state primary schools, Catholic and independent schools, and of course Kenmore State High School, which continues to play a vital role in educating young people from across Brisbane's western suburbs. I regularly have the opportunity to engage with principals, teachers, students and parents throughout the electorate. Whether it is attending school events, speaking with student leaders, visiting classrooms or discussing future infrastructure needs, I continue to be impressed by the professionalism and dedication of those working within our local education sector and various schools across the electorate of Moggill. I particularly want to acknowledge Moggill State School, which this year celebrates its 160th anniversary. That is a remarkable milestone for any institution, let alone a state school. For generations, Moggill State School has educated local children, supported families and served as an important part of the social fabric of the local community. I certainly look forward to joining with local residents, students, teachers, staff, former students and the wider school community next month in celebrating this significant anniversary and recognising the school's significant contribution to our local area.

As I conclude my contribution I want to emphasise how a number of the reforms contained within this legislation are sensible and overdue. This legislation provides greater flexibility and clarity for non-state schools, including the ability to operate from temporary sites when necessary following emergencies or natural disasters, and we have heard about that as part of the debate this afternoon. Importantly, this helps ensure the continuity of education for students and provides greater certainty for school communities when unforeseen events occur.

This legislation also strengthens pathways for young people who are disengaged or at risk of disengaging from education, recognising that not every student follows the same journey. An important part of the debate of this legislation is around ensuring there are opportunities, because when young people are engaged in education they are less likely to fall into other circumstances which may lead to problems not only in their individual lives but in their families and across society more generally.

The legislation and the intent of the framework that is being provided around this work provide greater clarity around re-engagement options, improve governance across education and arts bodies, and support the international delivery of the Queensland Certificate of Education, further showcasing the quality and reputation of Queensland education. Internationally, the system here in Queensland is well regarded. I know there are many students in other countries within our region who have had the opportunity to study the Queensland curriculum and they are certainly grateful for those opportunities that are provided through the leadership of the state government and obviously by the Department of Education as well.

Taken together, the measures contained within this legislation reflect a Liberal National Party state government that is focused on practical reform and continuous improvement. They complement the significant investments already being made by the Crisafulli LNP state government to support teachers, strengthen schools, improve student outcomes and reduce unnecessary bureaucracy. Education remains one of the most important investments that any government can make. By

supporting teachers, empowering school leaders, reducing administrative burden and ensuring our legislative framework remains fit for purpose, we create better outcomes not only for today's students but also for future generations of Queenslanders.

I also acknowledge the committee, and I know there are members from both sides of the House who scrutinise legislation. They undertake very important work for the Queensland parliament on behalf of Queenslanders. I want to acknowledge the members of the committee who provide that input and oversight and also the committee secretariat. In the preparation of reports that come before the Queensland parliament they do an amazing amount of work. They show great diligence, skill and expertise when it comes to compiling those reports. I commend the legislation to the House.