

Speech By

Mark Boothman

MEMBER FOR THEODORE

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EDUCATION AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Mr BOOTHMAN (Theodore—LNP) (11.58 am): I rise to also discuss and support the Education and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026. This bill is practical in its nature. It puts forward important reforms when it comes to education and the arts in Queensland. At its heart, this bill is about modernising legislation, reducing unnecessary red tape, improving governance, and ensuring that systems are clear and responsive to the needs of Queenslanders.

Before I get into the detail of the bill, like many other members, I would also like to give a big shout-out to our teachers, principals and staff in our schools for the absolutely fantastic job they do for their communities and their school communities. It can sometimes be a very difficult job, but it is bills like this which actually make differences to the red-tape burden they suffer under.

Sitting suspended from 12.00 pm to 2.00 pm.

Mr BOOTHMAN: I had just started my contribution before the lunch break. As there are a few other members who also want to speak to this very important piece of legislation, I will reduce my contribution.

Government members: Oh!

Mr BOOTHMAN: As a team player. These amendments will make a huge difference, especially when it comes to improving legislative clarity and strengthening governance arrangements for non-state schools. Just to highlight the importance of the non-state-school sector, it does a huge amount of work in taking a lot of the population of students away from the state school sector, making it easier for state schools to manage their populations. Therefore, it is crucial to ensure they have legislation in place which makes a difference to how they run their affairs, and reducing red tape is very important for that sector. These reforms are practical, targeted and necessary. Many families take the option of non-state schooling. In the electorate of Theodore and across the northern Gold Coast, many parents take up the option of this very important sector. Therefore, it is important to ensure that regulatory requirements and red tape are reduced in order to reduce the burden and make it easier for these facilities to work.

This bill also covers other very important elements such as disengaged youths in youth detention centres. We need to break the cycle when it comes to these individuals—these kids. This is something that I and my colleagues have been very passionate about for quite some time. We need a circuit breaker. We need to break that cycle, and that is what this bill does. This bill empowers that sector to get some education outcomes for disengaged youths, because with educational opportunities some of these disengaged youths will get their lives back on the straight and narrow, and that is critically important. We do not want these people going through the revolving door of our youth justice system, so it is incredibly important that we go down this pathway. As there are quite a few other members who wish to speak on this very important piece of legislation, I will limit my comments to that.