

14.11.12

EDUCATION AND INNOVATION COMMITTEE
REPORT No.11 ON THE
EDUCATION LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2012
QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

INTRODUCTION

On 29 October 2012, the Education and Innovation Committee tabled Report No.11 in relation to the Education Legislation Amendment Bill 2012.

The Queensland Government response to recommendations made by the Committee is provided below.

RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation 1 – the Committee recommends that the Education Legislation Amendment Bill 2012 be passed.

Government Response – the Government thanks the Committee for this recommendation.

Recommendation 2 – the Committee recommends that the Department of Education, Training and Employment ensure that the training and resource materials designed to support school staff meet their obligation to report possible sexual abuse, should take account of any additional challenges faced by school staff interacting with students through distance education.

Government response – the recommendation is supported. Staff members in state schools, including State Schools of Distance Education are supported through Education Queensland training and policy material to identify appropriate and inappropriate behaviours and are given guidance on how to respond.

Education Queensland’s Student Protection Procedure outlines required responses to suspicions of harm which are consistent with the *Education (General Provisions) Act 2006*.

Education Queensland staff are required to complete online Student Protection Training on commencing work in a state school. The training is targeted to the role of the staff member and their level of contact with students. The training and resource materials are regularly reviewed by the Department of Education, Training and Employment to ensure new issues or challenges are incorporated.

Recommendation 3 - the Committee recommends that during the second reading debate on the Education Legislation Amendment Bill 2012, the Minister for Education, Training and Employment outline the disciplinary process that would apply in the event of school staff failing to report the likelihood of future sexual abuse.

Government response – Recommendation 3 is accepted. The Minister for Education, Training and Employment will address the recommendation in the Second Reading speech.

Recommendation 4 – the Committee recommends that the Minister for Education, Training and Employment provide the Parliament with details of the current approach to case management of excluded students within Queensland state schools.

Government response – Recommendation 4 is accepted. The Minister for Education, Training and Employment will address the recommendation in the Second Reading speech.