

Annual Report **2012 - 2013**

Report No. 26
Education and Innovation Committee
October 2013

Education and Innovation Committee

Chair	Mrs Rosemary Menkens MP, Member for Burdekin
Deputy Chair	Mrs Desley Scott MP, Member for Woodridge (from 12 February 2013) Mr Tim Mulherin MP, Member for Mackay (until 12 February 2013)
Members	Mr Steve Bennett MP, Member for Burnett Mr Mark Boothman MP, Member for Albert Mr Ray Hopper MP, Member for Condamine (from 12 February 2013) Mr Michael Latter MP, Member for Waterford Ms Anastacia Palaszczuk MP, Member for Inala (until 12 February 2013) Mr Michael Pucci MP, Member for Logan (until 12 February 2013) Mr Neil Symes MP, Member for Lytton
Committee Staff	Ms Bernice Watson, Research Director Ms Emily Booth, Principal Research Officer Mr Gregory Thomson, Principal Research Officer Ms Debra Stolz, Principal Research Officer Ms Carolyn Heffernan, Executive Assistant Ms Debbie Mohi, Executive Assistant
Technical Secretariat	Scrutiny Ms Renee Easten, Research Director Ms Marissa Ker, Principal Research Officer Mr Karl Holden, Principal Research Officer Ms Tamara Vitale, Executive Assistance
Contact details	Education and Innovation Committee Parliament House George Street Brisbane Qld 4000
Telephone	+61 7 3406 7363
Fax	+61 7 3406 7500
Email	eic@parliament.qld.gov.au
Web	www.parliament.qld.gov.au/eic

1. Introduction

The Education and Innovation Committee (the committee) is a portfolio committee established by the *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001* and the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly.

1.1 Purpose of this report

In accordance with the *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001*, the committee is required to table in the Legislative Assembly a report about its activities during the year. The report must include:

- (a) a list of meetings of the committee and the names of members attending or absent from each meeting; and
- (b) a summary of issues considered by the committee, including a description of the more significant issues arising from the considerations; and
- (c) a statement of the committee's revenue and spending for the year; and
- (d) a brief description of responses by Ministers to recommendations of the committee.

This report has been prepared in accordance with these requirements for the period 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013. It relates to the Education and Innovation Committee of the 54th Parliament.

1.2 Committee membership

On 17 May 2012 the Legislative Assembly passed the *Parliament of Queensland and Other Acts Amendment Act 2012*. The Act received Assent and commenced on 18 May 2012. The amendments provide for the membership and operation of portfolio committees according to the numbers of government members and non-government members making up the membership of the Assembly.

From 1 June 2012 to 12 February 2013 the committee comprised of six members nominated by the Leader of the House and two members nominated by the Leader of the Opposition. They were:

- Mrs Rosemary Menkens MP, Chair and Member for Burdekin (LNP)
- Mr Tim Mulherin MP, Deputy Chair and Member for Mackay (ALP)
- Ms Anastacia Palaszczuk MP, Member for Inala (ALP)
- Mr Michael Pucci MP, Member for Logan (LNP)
- Mr Stephen Bennett MP, Member for Burnett (LNP)
- Mr Michael Latter MP, Member for Waterford (LNP)
- Mr Neil Symes MP, Member for Lytton (LNP)

From 12 February 2013 to 30 June 2013 the committee comprised of five members nominated by the Leader of the House and two members nominated by the Leader of the Opposition. They were:

- Mrs Rosemary Menkens MP, Chair and Member for Burdekin (LNP)
- Mrs Desley Scott MP, Deputy Chair and Member for Woodridge (ALP)
- Mr Stephen Bennett MP, Member for Burnett (LNP)
- Mr Michael Latter MP, Member for Waterford (LNP)
- Mr Neil Symes MP, Member for Lytton (LNP)
- Mr Ray Hopper MP, Member for Condamine (KAP)

1.3 Role of the committee

The committee was established by resolution of the Legislative Assembly on 18 May 2012.¹ The committee consists of government and non-government members. This report outlines the activities of the committee during the 2012-13 year.

The committee's primary areas of responsibility are education, training, employment, science, information technology, innovation and the arts.

These portfolio areas of responsibility are administered through the following government departments:

- Department of Education, Training and Employment; and
- Department of Science, Information Technology, Innovation and the Arts.

In relation to its areas of responsibility, the committee:

- examines bills to consider the policy to be enacted;
- examines the estimates of relevant departments;
- examines bills for the application of the fundamental legislative principles set out in s.4 of the *Legislative Standards Act 1994*;
- considers the lawfulness of subordinate legislation;
- assesses the public accounts of each relevant department in respect of the above areas of responsibility, with regard to the integrity, economy, efficiency and effectiveness of financial management by:
 - examining government financial documents and
 - considering the annual and other reports of the auditor-general; and
- considers departments' public works in light of matters including, but not limited to the:
 - suitability of the works for the purpose
 - necessity for the works
 - value for money of the works
 - revenue produced by, and current costs of, the works, or estimates of revenue and costs
 - present and prospective public value of the works
 - procurement methods used for the works and
 - actual suitability of the works in meeting the needs in and achieving the stated purpose of the works.

The committee must also deal with any issue referred to it by the Legislative Assembly or under an Act, whether or not the issue is within the committee's areas of responsibility.

¹ *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001*, s.88 and Standing Order 194

2. Committee activity

Detailed information about committee activity is published on the committee's webpage at www.parliament.qld.gov.au/eic.

2.1 Examination of Bills

In 2012-13 the Legislative Assembly referred the following Bills to the committee for examination:

Name of Bill	Date referred to committee
Education Legislation Amendment Bill 2012	21 August 2012
TAFE Queensland Bill 2013	16 April 2013
Education Legislation Amendment Bill 2013	16 April 2013
Education and Care Services Bill 2013	5 June 2013

2.1.1 Education Legislation Amendment Bill 2012

The Bill amended legislation to:

- enable State Schools of Distance Education to deliver an e-Kindy program to eligible children;
- allow Queensland to adopt new National Professional Standards for teachers;
- ensure that teachers who fail to report likely future sexual abuse of a student will not be subject to criminal sanctions; and
- replace the requirement that students permanently excluded from state schools receive annual written notice that they may make a submission to have the exclusion revoked, with advice given at the time of exclusion and online.

After a public briefing from the department, receipt of written submissions and holding a public hearing, the committee deliberated on a range of aspects and recommended that the Bill be passed. It made three other recommendations relating to support for teachers, and clarification of disciplinary processes for teachers and of case management for excluded students. These recommendations were accepted by the government, and the Bill was passed on 14 November 2012.

2.1.2 TAFE Queensland Bill 2012

The Bill amended legislation to:

- establish an independent body, TAFE Queensland, to be the public provider of vocational education and training (VET); and
- ensure that TAFE Queensland operates in an effective and efficient way and is commercially successful.

After a public briefing from the department, receipt of written submissions and holding a public hearing, the committee deliberated on a range of aspects and recommended that the Bill be passed. It also made three other recommendations, which sought to make the legislation more specifically reflective of its intended scope, and a minor drafting suggestion. These were not accepted by the government. The Bill was passed on 23 May 2013.

2.1.3 Education Legislation Amendment Bill 2013

The Bill would amend legislation to:

- include Year 7 in the definition of secondary school from 2015;
- allow for a streamlined notification process to assist those non-state schools changing accreditation arrangements;
- include the Preparatory year in state school students' entitlement to a basic allocation of semesters of State education; and
- allow for the cancellation of international student enrolments at state schools due to non-payment of fees.

The committee is due to report on the Bill by 16 July 2013.

2.1.4 Education and Care Services Bill 2013

The Bill would amend legislation to:

- establish a new regulatory framework for child care services regulated under the *Child Care Act 2002*;
- repeal the *Child Care Act 2002*; and
- make consequential amendments to other legislation.

The new regulatory framework would align with the *Education and Care Services National Law (Queensland) Act 2011* while retaining some elements of Queensland's *Child Care Act 2002*.

It would apply to those services not covered by the national law, including

- limited hours care services that receive Queensland Government funding;
- early childhood education and care services that are also disability services under the *Disability Services Act 2006*, which are excluded from the National Law;
- occasional care services; and
- Budget Based Funded services that do not receive child care benefit (CCB).

The committee is due to report on the Bill by 12 August 2013.

2.2 Public accounts

The committee considered the budget estimates for its portfolio areas for 2012-13 in October 2012.

The committee held a public hearing on 16 October 2012 and tabled Report No. 10 and a volume of additional information on 29 October 2012.

2.3 Auditor-General reports

Section 194B of the *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001* provides that:

The Committee of the Legislative Assembly shall as soon as practicable after a report of the Auditor-General is tabled in the Assembly refer that report to the relevant portfolio committee(s) for consideration.

The following Auditor-General reports were referred to the committee in 2012-13:

Name of report	Date referred to committee
Auditor-General's Report No. 2 for 2012-13: Follow-up of 2010 audit recommendations	6 March 2013
Auditor-General's Report No. 8 for 2012-13: Online Service Delivery	19 March 2013
Auditor-General's Report No. 11 for 2012-13: Results of audits: Education sector entities 2012	1 May 2013

The committee sought and received briefings from the Auditor-General in respect of all of the above reports and in respect of Report No. 2, sought and received advice from the government to inform its deliberations.

2.4 Subordinate legislation

The committee considered 11 pieces of subordinate legislation in 2012-13, making one recommendation to the government to amend the regulation for clarity. That recommendation was not accepted, with the minister providing the rationale for the current wording.

2.5 Assessment methods used in senior mathematics, chemistry and physics in Queensland schools

On 14 February 2013 the Legislative Assembly referred to the committee an inquiry into the assessment methods used in senior mathematics, chemistry and physics in Queensland schools, with a report due to the Legislative Assembly by 16 August 2013. The terms of reference set by the Legislative Assembly are:

1. That the Education and Innovation Committee inquire into and report on the assessment methods used in Senior Mathematics, Chemistry and Physics in Queensland schools.
2. That, in undertaking this inquiry, the committee should consider the following issues:
 - ensuring assessment processes are supported by teachers
 - student participation levels
 - the ability of assessment processes to support valid and reliable judgments of student outcomes.
3. Further, that the committee take public submissions and consult with key stakeholders and relevant subject matter experts.
4. The committee is to report to the Legislative Assembly by 16 August 2013.

In undertaking its inquiry during 2012-13, the committee received briefings from the relevant government agency (the Queensland Studies Authority), and all three schooling sectors, and an individual who had lobbied for the inquiry. Written submissions were invited, and 288 were accepted by the Committee. Written submissions closed on 13 May 2013.

As one way to ensure it met its terms of reference explicitly, the committee invited a number of subject matter experts – the subject matter being education and the three disciplines of mathematics, chemistry and physics – to participate in an advisory forum on 1 May 2013.

In May, June and July 2013 the committee held three public hearings, at which invited witnesses provided additional information in respect of their written submissions.

The committee undertook secondary research into the identified issues over this period.

2.6 Committee reports

The committee tabled the following reports in 2012-13:

Committee Report	Response
Report No. 5, Review of the Auditor-General's Report 3: 2012 Results of audits: Education Sector financial statements for 2011	Issues raised in the report are being addressed by the government.
Report No. 6, Subordinate legislation considered between 21 June 2012 and 11 July 2012	No response required.
Report No. 7, Review of Auditor-General's Report 1: 2012 – Improving student attendance.	Of the four recommendations, the government: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noted one, and • Supported three.
Report No. 8, Subordinate legislation tabled between 19 June 2012 and 27 July 2012	No response required.
Report No. 9, Annual Report 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012	No response required.
Report No. 10, Consideration of 2012-13 Portfolio Budget Estimates	No response required.
Report No. 11, Education Legislation Amendment Bill 2012	Of the four recommendations, the government: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noted one • Supported one and • Accepted two.
Report No. 12, Subordinate legislation tabled between 28 July 2012 and 31 July 2012	No response required.
Report No. 13, Portfolio subordinate legislation tabled between 1 August 2012 and 12 February 2013.	No response required.
Report No. 14, Subordinate Legislation Tabled between 13 February 2013 and 5 March 2013.	One recommendation was made. It was not supported by government.
Report No. 15, TAFE Queensland Bill 2013	Of the four recommendations, the government: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noted one, and • Did not support three.

3. Committee budget

The committee had no revenue for the year. Its operations are funded from the appropriation provided to the Legislative Assembly.

The following table outlines the committee's expenditure during the year.

Expenditure Items	\$
Employee expenses	280 209 ²
Business Travel	3 782
Printing and production	1 487
Advertising	0
Communications	2 225
Other Costs	5 206
Expenditure Total	292 909

4. *Public Interest Disclosure Act 2010*

During 2012-13, no disclosures were made to the committee in accordance with the *Public Interest Disclosures Act 2010*.

² Figures for staffing expenditure shown above reflect a three person secretariat supporting the committee. The committee's staffing was supplemented with additional resources from general Committee Office staff during the year.

5. Meeting attendance

	Menkens	Bennett	Boothman	Byrne	Hopper (from 12 Feb)	Latter	Miller	Mulherin (until 12 Feb)	Palaszczuk (until 12 Feb)	Pucci (until 12 Feb)	Scott (from 12 Feb)	Symes
2012												
11 July	✓	✓	✓			✓		x	✓	x		✓
1 August	✓	✓	✓			✓		x	✓	✓		✓
22 August	✓	✓	✓			✓		x	✓	✓		✓
12 September*	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		x		✓		✓
12 October [@]	✓	✓	✓			✓			x	✓	✓	✓
16 October	✓	✓	✓			✓		✓	x	✓		✓
24 October	✓	✓	✓			x		✓	x	✓		✓
31 October	✓	✓	✓			✓		✓	x	✓		✓
14 November	✓	✓	✓			✓		✓	x	✓		✓
28 November [#]	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	x		✓		✓
2013												
13 February	✓	✓	x		✓	✓					✓	✓
6 March	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓					✓	✓
20 March	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓					✓	✓
17 April	✓	✓	✓		x	✓					✓	✓
1 May	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓					✓	✓
3 May	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓					✓	✓
8 May	✓	x	✓		✓	✓					✓	✓
14 May	✓	✓	x		x	x					✓	✓
22 May	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓					✓	x
5 June	✓	✓	✓		x	✓					✓	✓
13 June	✓	x	✓		✓	✓					✓	✓

* Mr Bill Byrne MP replaced Ms Anastacia Palaszczuk MP

@ Mrs Desley Scott MP replaced Mr Tim Mulherin MP

Ms Jo-ann Miller MP replaced Ms Anastacia Palaszczuk MP



Mrs Rosemary Menkens MP
Chair