

EDUCATION, TOURISM, INNOVATION AND SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE

REPORT No. 19 on the

GRAMMAR SCHOOL BILL 2016

QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

INTRODUCTION

On 16 August 2016, the Grammar Schools Bill 2016 (the Bill) was introduced into Parliament.

The Bill was referred to the Education, Tourism, Innovation and Small Business Committee (the Committee) for detailed consideration with a report back of 4 October 2016.

On 27 September 2016, the Committee tabled its report (No. 19) in relation to the Bill.

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

RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation 1

The Committee recommends that the Grammar Schools Bill 2016 be passed.

Government response

The Government thanks the Committee for its consideration of the Bill and notes the Committee's recommendation that the Bill be passed.

Recommendation 2

The Committee recommends that the Grammar Schools Bill 2016 be amended to provide safeguards to protect information regarding a board member's conviction for an indictable offence.

Government response

The Committee's recommendation relates to the obligation in clause 23 of the Bill. Clause 23 requires a member of a Board of Trustees of a grammar school, who is convicted of an indictable offence during the term of the member's appointment, to give notice of the conviction, including details of the offence and sentence imposed, to the Minister.

The information provided to the Minister, under clause 23, would be afforded the protections available under the *Information Privacy Act 2009* and public servants handling the information would be obliged to do so in accordance with the Public Service code of conduct.

However, the safeguards available to the information disclosed under clause 23 compared with the information obtained under clause 21 are not the same.

The Government supports the Committee's recommendation and will amend the Bill. Amendments will provide that information about a conviction of an indictable offence disclosed to the Minister under clause 23 is protected in the same way as the criminal history information obtained by the Minister under clause 21.