



Speech by


**Mark Boothman**

**MEMBER FOR ALBERT**

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## **VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING (COMMONWEALTH POWERS) BILL**

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Albert—LNP) (12.36 pm): I rise today to speak in support of the Vocational Education and Training (Commonwealth Powers) Bill 2012. It is a bill about planning for the future through the reduction in red tape. This bill will help businesses reduce their paperwork requirements via a streamlined process. Before I continue any further, I wish to thank the minister for his support and the committee for its recommendations. It truly is an honour to have an individual as proactive as the education minister. So I thank John-Paul Langbroek.

The objectives of the bill are to refer legislative powers to the Commonwealth parliament to regulate registered training organisations and vocational education and training courses by adopting the National Vocational Education and Training Regulation Act 2011 and the Training Regulator (Transitional Provisions) Act. This will abolish a layer of bureaucracy and create a system to streamline education and training programs. This will create a national approach to training and allow consistency throughout Australian states that are participating in the VET program and, furthermore, allow national recognition of training programs. Most importantly, this will bring Queensland into line with other states under the national regulation.

This bill is good for Queensland and is good for jobs. It will help streamline apprenticeships and traineeships which provide skills to Queenslanders, allowing them to compete in a demanding job market. We need skilled workers to build our four-pillar economy and to diversify from a single sector. This is crucial for the future of our state. We must meet the challenge to build our agricultural sector, our construction sector, our tourism sector and our resources sector. Failure to rise to the challenge only leaves uncertainty for the next generation of workers. Furthermore, we cannot continue to venture down a path which solely relies on a single country's manufacturing potential.

The United Nations estimates the world's current food consumption is set to double by 2050. Queensland must rise to the challenge and strategically position ourselves to benefit from this increased demand. To reach this goal, we must be innovative. We can and must harness innovation through science and technology. We need to ensure that there are appropriate national training programs in place to help create a successful expansion of this industry. We need to continue to meet the demand for high-quality workers for the construction, tourism and resources sector through best training practices at a national level. Failure to do so only hinders the expansion of these important pillars of our economy.

To achieve these goals we need to be confident in the training provided by educational institutes through a national approach. We need to create nationalised standards that education providers can adhere to. Furthermore, this uniform approach cuts red tape by condensing two layers of legislation into one under the Commonwealth scheme. This allows for the efficient standardisation of training, competencies and accreditation. This scheme will provide employers with certainty and the knowledge that standard education models have been undertaken. This will allow our business operators and employers to have confidence in our education programs. Furthermore, students will obtain a solid education through

a coherent education approach. It should be noted that education programs vary their requirements between different professions.

As an example, I would like to highlight the inconsistencies in education which must be undertaken to obtain a pool safety inspector's licence. I understand that the Pool Safety Council grapples with inconsistencies under the Building Act 1975. By undertaking a standardisation approach to the Building Act, there is the potential to remove inconsistencies, giving a uniform approach to Pool Safety Council training courses, which are a requirement for pool safety inspectors to obtain their licence.

If the bill is not passed, providers in Queensland will be forced to deal with two jurisdictions and an overly complex system. This is a recipe for inefficiencies and puts Queensland training programs at a disadvantage. Education is crucial. Good quality education is a right for all Queenslanders. It gives our students and our apprentices a solid base from which to launch themselves into their chosen careers.

I wish to thank the officers of the department and the staff who helped the committee, especially our Madam Chair, the member for Burdekin. Your guidance is always most welcome and we certainly thank you, Rosemary. It is an honour and a privilege to have you as our chair. I would ask the House to accept this bill without delay.