




Speech By
Mark Boothman

MEMBER FOR THEODORE

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EDUCATION (OVERSEAS STUDENTS) BILL

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (5.34 pm): I too rise to make a contribution to the debate on the Education (Overseas Students) Bill 2018. From the outset, as I always do, I thank all education committee members from the 55th Parliament and the 56th Parliament who participated in the review of this legislation. Both committees recommended that the bill be passed. The objective of the bill is to create a regime for the regulation of overseas student courses and international exchange programs. The current regulatory framework is a shared responsibility between the federal and Queensland governments. The Commonwealth act sets out the legislative requirements for education and training providers that provide courses for overseas students studying in Australia on a student visa.

As most speakers in the chamber tonight have done, I give a big shout out to my local Rotary clubs, which run wonderful exchange programs that certainly give our school students a taste of different cultures. Early last year, a Brazilian student came here and learnt some good old Aussie slang at an Aussie school. She certainly appreciated the top-class educational facilities we have in this country. I think in part she really did not want to return home because of the wonderful friends she had made here. Exchange programs build a cultural bridge between Australian students and those from countries such as Brazil and Japan. There are plenty of Japanese exchange students in my local schools.

Mr Krause interjected.

Mr BOOTHMAN: I take the interjection from the member for Scenic Rim: she was an exchange student here many years ago. The current Queensland framework does not meet the national framework expectations. This bill aligns the state legislation with the national framework in a way that removes any doubling up.

In the 55th Parliament, the education committee made four recommendations and I wish to talk about recommendation No. 2. The committee recommended that the Education (Overseas Students) Bill 2017 be amended to limit the type of amendments to an approval that may be made by the chief executive without prior notification to an approval holder. The department made some comments around this, which are outlined in the 56th Parliament's committee report. I believe that the intent of the previous committee was to limit the amendments made by the chief executive officer that had potential restrictions. Sending a notification to providers and informing them that this is what is going on will give them a right of reply. That was my only concern when originally reading through the bill.

The bill includes provisions for the administration of new senior assessment and tertiary entrance systems under the authority of the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority. I was on the education committee for nearly six years before I took on my new role as a deputy whip. The member for Surfers Paradise got the ball rolling to bring us into line with other states in setting up the Australian Tertiary Administration Rank, or ATAR, score to replace the old OP system that was around when I went to school, which is quite a fair few years ago.

I wish to keep my contribution short. Obviously, this bill ensures that we come into line with other jurisdictions. Just to filibuster a little for the benefit of the member for Scenic Rim, we have some really good educational facilities in the Theodore electorate. I give a big shout out to my local principals for the wonderful work they do, as well as to the teachers in my electorate. Certainly, being a teacher can be trying at times, as they work at the coalface to ensure that the needs of students are met. I will finish my contribution there.