

~~for her tremendous support of this project. Both the federal and state governments have helped fund additional apprenticeship and traineeship programs.~~

~~The 'Fitz Blitz' project used apprentices to construct the sales and information centre over a 24-hour period. East Coast Apprenticeships provided a great team of apprentices for the challenge which showcased the range of skills our construction industry apprentices have. A group of first, second, third and fourth year apprentices had spent the preceding 15 weeks prefabricating the building at Brendale before dismantling it and rebuilding it on site at Fitzgibbon Chase. The project provided the apprentices with 4,440 hours of work experience to go towards their final qualifications.~~

~~Minister Stirling Hinchliffe and I launched another program which will benefit young people in the electorate of Sandgate. The Fitzgibbon Industry Relevant Schools Training, or FIRST, program will provide some great learning opportunities for local school students. Students from Bracken Ridge State High School have already started on site training with one of the ULDA's builder partners, and students from Sandgate and Aspley high schools and Aspley Special School are due to start work shortly. I am pleased that local people are given the opportunity to benefit from development in their area, and I know that parents appreciate their children having such practical work experience close to home.~~

~~The new Fitzgibbon Chase sales and information centre is now open to the public seven days a week, and encourage interested buyers to visit the centre as well as local residents who may be interested in the features of the development or have questions about what is planned.~~

~~Fitzgibbon Chase is also a very green development and was the first project in Australia to receive full marks under the UDIA's EnviroDevelopment version 2.0, which recognises exemplary sustainable development projects. I also joined with the Premier recently to announce that 40 hectares at Fitzgibbon will be preserved for the community. Tracks and trails will be constructed through the bushland to north of Fitzgibbon Chase between Telegraph Road and Roghan Road. Greening Australia has begun work to rehabilitate and revegetate the bushland and north side trainees will participate in the tracks and trails project.~~

~~Premier and Minister for the Arts, Anna Bligh, also announced a grant for 'Tuned Handrails' through Arts Queensland from the art+place Queensland public art fund. As part of providing a sense of place within the Fitzgibbon Chase development, the ULDA is including public art for the community to enjoy. The ULDA is currently working with three artists on a project which will be incorporated in a new bridge. Called 'Tuned Handrails', this project involves the installation of handrails on the bridge which will be designed to play a tune quite softly, I will let local residents know. The winning entry from the three artists is expected to be decided in the next month or so. A footbridge is also being constructed to connect current residents of Fitzgibbon with the shortest route within walking distance to Carseldine Railway Station and planning is also continuing on the community centre. The Bligh government is delivering affordable housing, green space, lifestyle and jobs for Queenslanders.~~

~~Sitting suspended from 12.58 pm to 2.30 pm.~~

022

## EDUCATION AND TRAINING LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

### First Reading

**Hon. GJ WILSON** (Ferry Grove—ALP) (Minister for Education and Training) (2.30 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Child Care Act 2002, the Education (General Provisions) Act 2006 and the Vocational Education, Training and Employment Act 2000 for particular purposes. I present the explanatory notes, and I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

Question put—That the bill be now read a first time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

*Tabled paper:* Education and Training Legislation Amendment Bill.

*Tabled paper:* Education and Training Legislation Amendment Bill, explanatory notes.

### Second Reading

**Hon. GJ WILSON** (Ferry Grove—ALP) (Minister for Education and Training) (2.30 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

This bill has three objectives. The bill will give state school principals the power to exclude a student enrolled at the principal's school for a period of not more than one year or permanently. The bill will allow care services that are approved to provide a kindergarten program to record unit record level data and to disclose this data to the Department of Education and Training. It will also make

minor amendments to the Vocational Education, Training and Employment Act 2000 to achieve consistency with national arrangements.

The government is committed to creating a safe and supportive learning environment that encourages all students to attend school. For state schools to achieve better learning outcomes for all students it is necessary for schools to have effective policies in place and adequate powers to maintain discipline and promote positive student behaviour in an environment that is conducive to learning and free from disturbances of inappropriate student behaviour.

This is why, in December last year, the government made a public commitment to give state school principals the legislative power to exclude students enrolled at their schools. The green paper *A flying start for Queensland children*, released on 2 February 2010, reiterates the government's commitment to provide state school principals with more power to exclude students to keep bad behaviour out of the classroom. These amendments are about achieving an appropriate balance between a principal's authority to manage the behaviour of their students at their school and ensuring all students have access to a positive education environment.

The bill provides state school principals with the power to exclude a student for a period of not more than one year or permanently. A principal would be able to exclude a student from their school if reasonably satisfied grounds exist to exclude the student and the principal does not reasonably believe it would be inappropriate for them to make a decision to exclude the student. The new power will not prevent a principal from also making a recommendation to the principal's supervisor for the supervisor to exclude the student from the school or certain other state schools.

Exclusion decisions are made as a last resort where other support and intervention strategies implemented by the school have proven to be ineffective. The type of behaviour that could lead to a notice proposing exclusion must be seriously inappropriate behaviour such as physical assault, possession of weapons or illicit drugs and significant property damage. When the principal sends a notice to the student proposing to exclude them, the principal is required to arrange the student's access to an educational program that allows the student to continue their education until a final decision is made about the student's exclusion.

The amendments allow the student or the student's parent to make submissions to the principal against the suspension and proposed exclusion. In addition, if the principal decides to exclude the student, the student can appeal the exclusion decision to the director-general. Re-engagement of excluded students is a key priority for the government. Case management will ensure that excluded students are enrolled in another school, alternative education program or other appropriate option.

The Department of Education and Training currently provides more than 100 alternative education programs, including 15 positive learning centres available to support students with behaviour problems. Students are also able to enrol in distance education as an option where physical attendance at a school is not appropriate.

Under the National Information Agreement on Early Childhood Education and Care, the Queensland government is required to develop the capacity to collect and report data about individual children and individual staff in the kindergarten setting. This is generally referred to as unit record level or URL data. URL data in relation to individual children will include the child's name, sex, date of birth, address of their primary residence, primary language, Indigenous status, hours of attendance in a kindergarten program and whether the child or the child's parent or guardian hold a healthcare card. This data in relation to a staff member will include the person's name, their early childhood and teaching qualifications, primary language and Indigenous status.

To meet Queensland's obligations under the agreement, the bill amends the Child Care Act 2002 to enable services that are approved to provide a kindergarten program to record and disclose this data to the department, either directly or through a central governing body. In addition, the bill enables the department to disclose relevant data to the Australian Bureau of Statistics and the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. The department will also have the ability to disclose this data to a central governing body for specified purposes. All of that information will be governed by appropriate privacy provisions.

The bill makes two minor amendments to the Vocational Education, Training and Employment Act 2000 to achieve consistency with national standards. Firstly, to ensure compliance with the national skills framework, the bill amends the definition of 'statement of attainment' to include a skill set as an additional category of achievement in vocational education and training that may be certified by a registered training organisation. Secondly, the bill amends the definition of 'national register' by omitting the reference to the National Training Information Service and substituting it with a generic reference to the register of vocational education and training. This is because the National Training Information Service database is being redeveloped and is likely to be replaced with a database bearing a different name. The amendment ensures the definition remains current despite any changes to the name of the database. I commend the bill to the House.

Debate, on motion of Ms Simpson, adjourned.