

Student Centred Learning Youth Bill 2009

Explanatory Notes

Objectives of the Youth Bill

The objective of the Youth Bill is to provide sufficient training across Queensland for all teachers to enhance learning among students with learning difficulties. By providing more personalised forms of teaching in schools this Bill aims to minimise truancy and foster effective learning in classrooms.

According to the Queensland Government truancy is increasing—current statistics reveal that truancy has risen up to 2% annually across a majority of regions in the state. In 2008 the northern regions in Queensland had the highest number of absences with attendance rates dropping from 91% in 2006 to a current 89%. There have been many theories explaining why students do not attend class, but recent research into adolescent behaviour suggests one of the main reasons students skip school is due to a lack of variety of teaching methods in classrooms.

The *Student Centred Learning Youth Bill 2009* proposes that teachers undergo a certain amount of training hours to learn about different teaching styles. Taking method-training sessions provides teachers with more opportunities to interact with students within their classroom and gain an understanding of their students' true academic capabilities. In these courses teachers explore the different learning styles, including structure of lessons, sociological, auditory, visual and tactile. Structured, objective and systematic styles of teaching are extremely common in classrooms currently. However, lecture style lessons may not appeal to some students. Instead, teachers will not only pick up on the different learning styles of students in their class, but as a whole the school will excel.

The *Student Centred Learning Youth Bill 2009* does not attempt to change the whole curriculum, but to instead follow the curriculum whilst educating students in the learning environments that they are most comfortable in, by either separating students into learning categories or holding tutorials. Another key aim of the Youth Bill is to encourage the arts in schools. Encouraging the arts in schools widens the exposure of children to different

learning styles, which will be beneficial for them when they enter high school. It will also encourage students enrolling in secondary schools to get involved in the arts, a sector of education that needs better cultivation.

Monetary rewards for academic excellence have been implemented to provide further incentives to students. The financial incentives will be offered to students who have achieved reasonable overall positions. The excelling students will be offered a reasonable amount of financial support intended to go towards future education such as university, TAFE, trade etc. This should aid in providing the necessities of future learning such as accommodation, textbooks and school fees. Offering financial gain for learning should encourage students to regularly attend classes—there is something more to work towards.

In schools there may be students who want to accelerate their learning or, on the other end of the spectrum, those who need extra time to catch up. The *Student Centred Learning Youth Bill 2009* is proposing that high academic senior students in grade eleven and twelve would be eligible to have a four day school week, instead of the regular five day school week. Currently this option of missing one day of school is available to school-based trainees and apprentices only. However, this Youth Bill suggests that academic students should be given the opportunity to take a day off campus to have a ‘study day’. By having a study day, it gives the opportunity for excelling students to pursue alternatives more focussed on their future goals.

To make sure that the *Student Centred Learning Youth Bill 2009* is effectively assisting our students across Queensland, compulsory three-way conferences between the teacher, parents/guardians and the student will occur. These three-way conferences will be mainly offered to students that the teachers see struggling academically. However, these three-way conferences will be optional for high academic achievers.

This Youth Bill’s main aim is to benefit the Queensland education system by drawing the focus of learning back on students, and the most beneficial learning methods for young people today.