



Dissenting Report—Rowan Ramsey MP, Karen Andrews MP, Alan Tudge MP, Alex Hawke MP

The Coalition Members are dismayed the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment is not being given enough time to seriously consider the high number of bills referred to it in the last few weeks.

In the case of the Australian Education (Consequential and Transitional Provisions) Bill 2013 we have been unable to even schedule a single meeting with the department for a briefing to explore possible inadequacies.

The Coalition Members understand the different nature of the 43rd Parliament and its resultant higher demands on the committee system and have strived to meet the demanding timetables.

In particular they would like to also acknowledge the strong efforts by the secretariat to try and meet the government's unreasonable time-lines.

The bill was referred to the committee on the 5th of June and submissions were called for on the next day to close on the 12th, just four working days later.

Queensland Premier Campbell Newman summed up the timeline when he said, "Your letter is dated 6 June 2013 seeking submissions by the 12 June 2013! Frankly the whole thing is an outrage".

It was impossible to schedule a public hearing and while the committee did receive ten submissions the members were never given the opportunity to explore further any of the very serious issues raised in those submissions.

Certainly they (the submissions) raised a large range of concerns with the both the Australian Education Bill and the Consequential and Transitional arrangements.

The Coalition members believe they cannot in clear conscience make any recommendation because they have not had the opportunity to properly explore the full consequences of the bill and deplore the short-circuiting of the committee process.

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