

Jobs Queensland Bill 2015

Explanatory Notes for amendments to be moved during consideration in detail by the Honourable Yvette D'ath MP, Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills.

Short title

The short title of the Bill is the Jobs Queensland Bill 2015.

Policy objectives and the reasons for them

The amendments to be moved during consideration in detail give effect to the Government's response to the report of the Education, Tourism and Small Business Committee (the Committee).

In its report on the Jobs Queensland Bill 2015, the Committee recommended that the Bill be passed and made two recommendations for amendment to the Bill. Recommendation 2 is 'that the Bill be amended to require that at least one member of Jobs Queensland is a person with direct experience in the education, training or employment sectors'. Recommendation 3 is that 'clause 10 of the Jobs Queensland Bill 2015 be amended to require the Minister, in recommending persons for appointment to Jobs Queensland, to have regard to including persons of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent and people from culturally and linguistically diverse communities and from regional areas who have experience or knowledge relevant to Jobs Queensland's functions'.

Achievement of policy objectives

Membership of Jobs Queensland – at least one person to have direct experience in education, training or employment sectors

Currently, Part 2, Division 2 of the Bill provides for Jobs Queensland to have a membership of between 7 and 12 members, appointed by the Governor in Council. In particular, clause 10 provides that members must include an equal number of employer and employee representatives, and other members must have: experience in a particular industry; direct experience in the education, training or employment sectors; or other knowledge, experience or standing relevant to Jobs Queensland.

The Committee considers Jobs Queensland should have, among its membership, at least one person with direct experience in the education, training or employment sectors and this is also the policy intent. The proposed amendment gives effect to this by requiring at least one member to have skills or experience in the education, training or employment sectors.

Recommending persons for appointment – considering persons of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent, people from culturally and linguistically diverse communities and from regional areas

Currently, clause 10(5) of the Bill requires the Minister to have regard to a balanced gender representation when recommending persons for appointment as a member of Jobs Queensland. It is proposed to broaden this clause, in line with the Committee's recommendation to also require the Minister to have regard to persons of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent, people from culturally and linguistically diverse communities and from regional areas, when recommending persons for appointment as members.

The proposed amendment will encourage diversity in membership to ensure members represent a wide range of backgrounds and a broad knowledge and skills base to support the work of Jobs Queensland.

Alternative ways of achieving policy objectives

The policy objectives can only be achieved by legislative amendment.

Estimated cost for government implementation

There are no funding implications for government as a consequence of the amendment.

Consistency with fundamental legislative principles

The amendments to be moved during consideration in detail are consistent with fundamental legislative principles.

Consultation

The proposed amendments have been made as a result of the Committee inquiry process, which received eleven written submissions on the Bill and included public and departmental hearings.

Consistency with legislation of other jurisdictions

The amendments are specific to the State of Queensland, and are not inconsistent with legislation in the Commonwealth or other State jurisdictions.

Notes on provisions

Amendment 1 amends clause 10 and includes a new subsection (4) to require that at least one member of Jobs Queensland must be a person the Minister considers has direct experience in the education, training or employment sectors.

Amendment 2 makes a consequential amendment to clause 10, as a result of amendment 1 above. The effect of amendment 1 and 2 is that members of Jobs Queensland must have at least one person the Minister considers has direct experience in the education, training or employment sectors (as well as an equal number of members the Minister considers represents employers and employees). Other members must have experience in a particular industry; or other knowledge, experience or standing relevant to Jobs Queensland's functions.

Amendment 3 amends clause 10 to require the Minister to have regard to persons of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent, people from culturally and linguistically diverse communities and people from regional areas, when recommending persons for appointment as members of Jobs Queensland. This is in addition to the current requirement for the Minister to also have regard to a balanced gender representation when recommending persons for appointment.