INQUIRY INTO THE MOUNT GRAVATT TAFE UPGRADE PROJECT

Written Brief

Education, Employment and Training Committee

Public Briefing
Monday, 28 March 2022
11.15am to 12.30pm



This Briefing Note is provided in response to the Education, Employment and Training Committee's (Queensland Parliament) request for the Department of Employment, Small Business and Training to provide information on the Mount Gravatt TAFE Upgrade Project.

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1.0 Introduction

The Department of Employment, Small Business and Training (DESBT) owns 45 individual training sites throughout Queensland. These sites are mainly utilised by TAFE Queensland, which, as the State's premier public provider of Vocational Education and Training (VET), has a vital role in delivering training to Queenslanders throughout the state.

DESBT plays an important role in TAFE Queensland's service delivery, as the primary user of these sites, by planning for and delivering training facilities that:

- are more flexible in training delivery modes to accommodate current and future needs;
- are aligned to create better student outcomes from greater access to educators;
- are more focussed on purpose-built practical training spaces, to simulate real workspaces;
- provide maximum flexibility and innovation in design, technology and operational layout;
- provide a healthy and safe environment to train and learn; and
- integrate quality lifecycle maintenance and facilities management principles.

This investment provides Queenslanders access to world-class, industry-relevant and publicly-owned training infrastructure. This aligns with the broader strategic intent of the Government's investment in helping to build a nation-leading training sector that results in students successfully securing careers in their chosen industry.

DESBT works with partners to ensure training infrastructure and training investment are targeted and responsive to industry needs, guaranteeing that Queensland will have access to a world-class workforce in traditional, emerging and growth industries today and in the future.

1.1 Inquiry coverage

The Committee inquiry lists 9 projects with regards to the Mount Gravatt TAFE Upgrade Project. To effectively address the Committee's terms of reference, these projects have been defined under three (3) overarching projects, in accordance with the funding sources, project activity and delivery. These three projects are described as:

a. Advancing our Training Infrastructure (AOTI) – Mount Gravatt

- the creation of the Fashion Centre of Excellence (in G Block);
- renewal of the A Block cafeteria and hospitality facilities and new signage;
- upgrades and refurbishment of A Block Administration and horticulture general learning areas, as well as pedestrian pathways and external lighting;
- upgrades to the G Block facade and entry, deck and walkway (Fashion Centre of Excellence);
- revitalisation of the theatre and creation of a new horticulture maker space area;
- relocation of security, and the installation of new CCTV; and
- b. Upgrades and refurbishment of A Block Administration.
- c. Refurbishment of J Block.



The new forecourt at Mount Gravatt TAFE Fashion Centre of Excellence at G Block.

1.2 Training Infrastructure Delivery Framework

As owners of infrastructure and sites primarily occupied by TAFE Queensland, DESBT plans for and delivers contemporary infrastructure in collaboration with TAFE Queensland.

In delivering these projects, TAFE Queensland and DESBT partner with QBuild (Department of Energy and Public Works) who is the Queensland Government's builder to deliver construction and maintenance services across all state-owned sites.

The tripartite partnership arrangement is briefly outlined as follows:

a. TAFE Queensland

- Queensland's premier public provider of VET and primary tenant of state-owned sites;
- Maintains a schedule of infrastructure required to deliver industry-relevant training and maintain statutory requirements;
- Identifies opportunities for improvement in delivery in campuses and undertake the relevant forward-planning and engagement activities to support this;
- Responsible for daily management and operations of campuses, along with WHS obligations; and
- Works with DESBT to ensure capital and maintenance investments are targeted.

b. DESBT

- Custodians of state-owned training sites, and manages them on behalf of the Queensland Government;
- Works with QBuild and TAFE Queensland to effectively deliver infrastructure projects, as part of annual capital and maintenance programs or projects related to government election commitments (i.e. Advancing our TAFE Infrastructure; Equipping TAFE for our Future);
- Receives an annual appropriation (\$42.247m in 2021-22 budget) to fund the Infrastructure branch, associated costs, the Annual Training Infrastructure Program (ATIP), Annual Maintenance Program (AMP) and other programs, excluding government election commitments (GECs); and
- Supports and relies on TAFE Queensland to plan for and deliver training infrastructure, subject to TAFE's needs and requirements.

c. QBuild (Department of Energy and Public Works)

- Maintains a partnering agreement with DESBT to deliver all training infrastructure requirements in building and maintenance state-owned facilities;
- As principal contractors, QBuild manages risks, scope work requests, tenders, evaluation and negotiation, contract awards, and implementation and management of contractual arrangements throughout the lifecycle of a project contract; and
- As an informed purchaser, QBuild provides leadership in procurement planning, market engagement and value-for-money assessments.

1.3 Advancing our Training Infrastructure

In November 2017, the Queensland Government released its Pathways to Training, Skills and Jobs policy as part of a Government Election Commitment. This policy included investment for a new initiative: Advancing our Training Infrastructure (AOTI), to invest up to \$85 million across several training sites/regions as part of the medium to long-term plan to revitalise the state's TAFE infrastructure portfolio.

From 2018 to 2021, the delivery of AOTI was prioritised to provide for the modernisation of the following TAFE campuses:

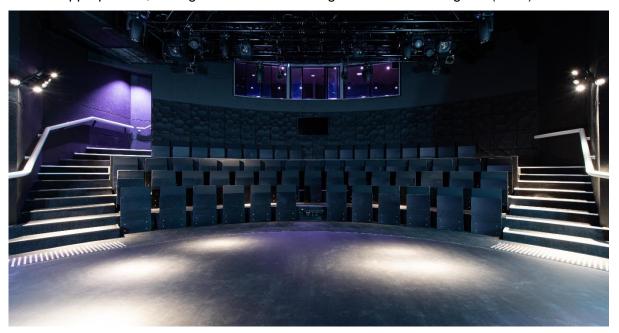
- Mount Gravatt
- Alexandra Hills (Redlands)
- Ashmore and Southport (Gold Coast)
- Toowoomba
- Pimlico (Townsville)
- Cairns

The Mount Gravatt AOTI commitment included \$15 million to consolidate and revitalise the campus to a fit for-purpose, modern condition.

1.4 Annual Training Infrastructure Program

The additional projects as part of the Mount Gravatt TAFE upgrade, identified as: (1) upgrades and refurbishment of A Block administration and (2) refurbishment of J Block, were not part of the AOTI initiative. However, they were identified as value-adding opportunities, coinciding with the upgrade and renewal of the Mount Gravatt campus.

Additional funding for these projects were drawn from DESBT Infrastructure's annual infrastructure appropriation, through the Annual Training Infrastructure Program (ATIP).



New theatre in I Block

2.0 Project Delivery

The Mount Gravatt campus is a flagship TAFE campus located 20 minutes from the Brisbane CBD, offering students in Brisbane's south a convenient location to study a number of courses including fashion, media, horticulture, accounting and information technology.

The campus has an established connection to the Mount Gravatt community and greater Brisbane region, with good links to industry. While the site is well-positioned, the campus had become underutilised. Due to the extensive age and the significant evolution of industry and their needs, the buildings and training facilities had become increasingly unfit for existing and projected training demand.

2.1 Proposed works

In line with proposed investments through AOTI, master planning undertaken for Mount Gravatt TAFE indicated that the campus was starting to see an increase in training enrolments. While training in fashion has been undertaken at the Mount Gravatt campus for 40 years, the relocation of training for higher education fashion training from the South Bank campus to the Mount Gravatt campus was projected to stimulate further student demand.

Proposed scope and options were developed in line with the master planning and aligned with projected demand and approved though a formal internal and cross-agency governance process. Options were required to provide the following key economic benefits:

- the provision of optimal facilities in order to enhance academic achievements of TAFE Queensland students;
- facilities which support a long-term increase in student skills and their earnings capabilities for TAFE Queensland students in the region;
- the provision of renewed, modernised, flexible, and technologically innovative training infrastructure, improving the delivery of education services and encouraging the retention of teaching resources;
- the provision of community benefits through growth in community engagement activities and improvements to the quality of life for the campus users in the region; and
- the provision of short-term and long-term employment opportunities.

The proposed AOTI works for Mount Gravatt was divided into two stages, as per the schedule below:

Stage 1 – Fashion Centre of Excellence and general campus works	Funding (\$M)
Enable Fashion Centre of Excellence precinct at Block G	
S1 Stage 2 fit out of the Fashion Centre of Excellence on Level 2	\$4.434
S2 New deck and walkway at Block G Level 2	\$0.418
S3 New façade and entry between Blocks G and B	\$0.261
Sub total	\$5.113
Improve the campus experience	
S1 Upgrade cafeteria and Hospitality on Block A Ground Floor	\$0.745
S2 Develop new signage across the campus	\$0.151
S3 Relocate campus security to Block F Level 1 and install CCTV	\$0.758
S4 Improve lighting to pedestrian thoroughfares and main car park	\$2.736
Sub total	\$4.390
Total	\$9.503

Stage 2 – Horticulture, media, and administration works	
A Block relocation and consolidation of administration	
Sub total	\$0.365
F Block revitalisation of ground floor	
Horticulture	\$1.724
Maker space refurbishment	
I Block revitalisation of theatre, film, and TV	\$1.965
Total	\$4.054
DHPW (QBuild) implementation costs	\$0.841
Unallocated costs (contingency value)	\$0.602
Total	\$5.497

Due to a proposed relocation of higher education fashion from South Bank to Mount Gravatt by early 2021, the Fashion Centre of Excellence was completed in Stage 1 to enable effective decanting of training delivery. The additional space also allows TAFE Queensland to accommodate for the projected increase of student demand in line with industry demand.

2.2 Value for Money and Additional Works

The cost benefit analysis for the proposed AOTI projects indicated a positive financial effect on TAFE Queensland, with an increase in net student enrolments and associated revenues. The overall outcome was deemed to:

- result in multiple benefits through economic, social and/or environmental outcomes to TAFE Queensland, the student body and the local community;
- meet immediate community and user needs and will be resilient and efficient into the future; and
- draw on innovative practice in design to support improved student services and community engagement.

Further opportunities were identified through the analysis to improve the cost benefit to TAFE Queensland and the Queensland Government as owners of the site. With ageing buildings, interiors and TAFE Queensland Corporate relocating to the Mount Gravatt campus, additional works were planned and incorporated into the campus upgrades and funded through DESBT's Annual Training Infrastructure Program.

The additional works included: refit of the new TAFE Queensland Corporate office; further refurbishment of the horticulture general learning areas; and upgrades and revitalisation of J Block, which DESBT leases to White Box Enterprises, with additional space subleased by White Box, with consent from DESBT, to Jigsaw Australia, to aid in their work in supporting disabled Queenslanders find pathways to employment.

Additional works – Annual Training Infrastructure Program	Funding (\$M)
J Block refurbishment	\$1.5
G2 Block (Stage 2)	\$1.5
A Block refit	\$4.540
A Block Horticulture GLA	\$0.414
Total	\$7.945

The additional projects brought the approved funding total of the Mount Gravatt TAFE Upgrade to \$23.37 million. Through cost saving measures, the final budget was reduced to \$19.78 million. The final project cost was \$19.52 million, a saving of \$3.85 million (See Appendix 1).



New fashion teaching studio in G Block.

2.3 Recurrent costs and revenue

As a crucial part of its annual infrastructure appropriation, DESBT invests in and maintains all state-owned TAFE infrastructure. In the 2021-22 budget, over \$620,000 has been budgeted to fund the planned, unplanned and statutory maintenance of the campus. The budget for Mount Gravatt in the previous financial year was \$462,000 with an actual spend of under \$370,000.

This budget covers general maintenance works (planned), testing and maintenance of building systems such as air conditioning, fire safety and lifts (statutory) and an breakdowns and damages, for example flood-related, that cannot be predicted (unplanned).

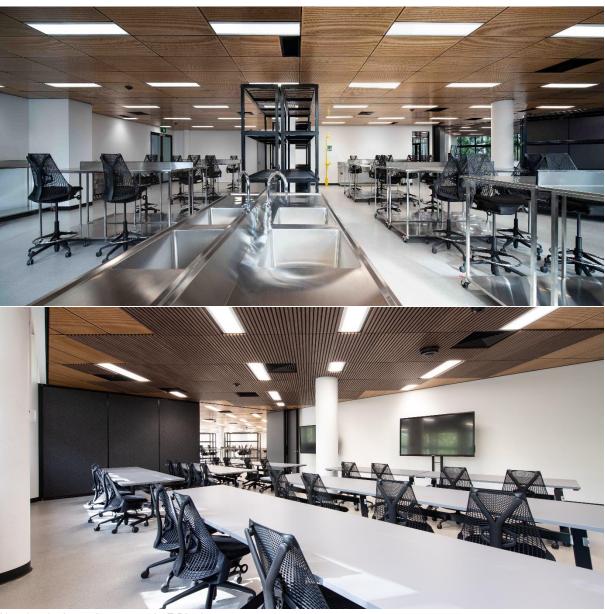
The increase in the maintenance budget caters for increased utilisation of the campus as well as the maintenance costs associated with the new works.

DESBT has also undertaken an Asset Life Cycle Assessment (ALCA) on Mount Gravatt for use in planning future maintenance budgets.

The Mount Gravatt TAFE campus also supports 14 third-party tenants, with the upgrade works benefitting lessees as well as TAFE Queensland. This financial year, DESBT has received almost \$200,000 in rent payment (gross).

While associated costs continue for TAFE Queensland (maintenance and opex costs - teachers, materials, furniture etc), there has been an overall increase of almost 49% in enrolments at the Mount Gravatt campus since 2019, including increase in training demand for fashion, media and horticulture.

TAFE Queensland, assuming stable training market settings, projects growth in enrolments and training demand over the next 3 to 5 years.



New horticulture classrooms in F Block.

3.0 Public Benefit

The AOTI initiative was implemented as a commitment from the Queensland Government as a first step in a long-term plan to revitalise TAFE facilities across the state.

The strategy was aimed at modernising TAFE campuses in order to deliver industry-relevant training in world-class facilities.

The campuses identified in the initiative: Ashmore, Southport, Alexandra Hills (Redlands), Toowoomba, Townsville, Cairns and Mount Gravatt represented high priority given their condition and training delivery pressures.

In general, the \$85m investment represented a number of benefits to TAFE Queensland, the Queensland Government and to Queenslanders in terms of new and contemporary training facilities in addition to the almost 300 jobs supported through the initiative and additional investment.

At Mount Gravatt, the upgrades facilitated revitalised and expanded delivery spaces and capacity for Fashion, Screen and Media, and Horticulture, provided a positive and safer experience for students through improved public spaces and enabled tenants at the campus to benefit from the enhanced facilities.

3.1 Social enterprise

In the case of Whitebox Enterprises and Jigsaw Australia, the additional investment to renew and upgrade J Block provided a safe space that was fit for their purpose.

White Box sub-leases the space to Jigsaw - a social enterprise which operates to train and transition individuals with a disability into award wage employment, focussing on document digitisation.

Social enterprises are businesses that exist to benefit the public and community rather than just shareholders and owners and work to develop new solutions to social, cultural, economic or environmental problems.

3.2 Relocation of TAFE Queensland Head Office

The additional refurbishment of A Block allowed TAFE Queensland's Corporate team to fully relocate to a campus still relatively close to the CBD. Being co-located with training delivery has also had a positive corporate culture that focuses on grass roots training business.

The former Corporate Office at 133 Mary Street, Brisbane CBD was leased by TAFE Queensland at a cost of approximately \$480,000 per annum. The works have therefore resulted in a return on investment to the state due to reduced operational costs to TAFE Queensland.

4.0 Construction

QBuild, through DEPW provides as its core business, professional building, construction and maintenance services that sustain the built assets essential for the delivery of DESBT's services.

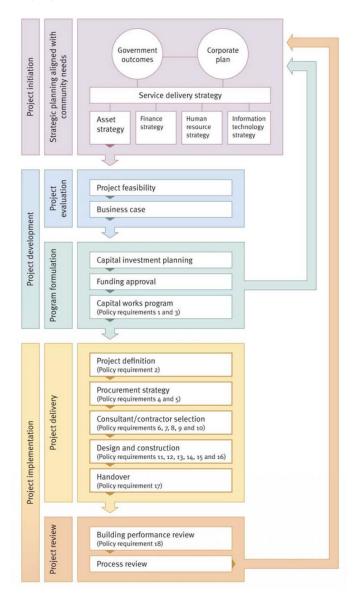
The approval process included:

- · formal project approval via the responsible Minister
- funding approval via the Under Treasurer
- additional funding approval via the Training Infrastructure Investment Committee (TIIC)
- project approvals to the DEPW delivery team via DESBT

TIIC includes officers from DESBT, including the DESBT Chief Finance Officer, TAFE Queensland, the Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC), Queensland Treasury (QT) and the Department of Energy and Public Works (DEPW).

4.1 Procurement methods

The Department procured the project via traditional delivery utilising QBuild (DEPW) as Project Manager, Procurement Manager and Contract Administration for the Mount Gravatt upgrade projects.



Procurement was undertaken in accordance with the Queensland Procurement Policy, with a majority of the project-related works delivered by the following organisation that are largely private sector companies:

- Fashion Centre of Excellence Quadric Pty Ltd
- G Block amenities Quadric Pty Ltd
- A Block Cafeteria Quadric Pty Ltd
- New signage Quadric Pty Ltd
- A Block Administration Quadric Pty Ltd
- Horticulture GLA PBI Australia
- Pedestrian pathways Quadric Pty Ltd
- External lighting Quadric Pty Ltd
- G Block façade and entry Quadric Pty Ltd
- G Block deck and walkway Quadric Pty Ltd
- Theatre Kane Constructions Pty Ltd
- New horticulture maker space Kane Constructions Pty Ltd
- Relocation of security Quadric Pty Ltd
- Installation of new CCTV Quadric Pty Ltd
- J Block refurbishment QBuild
- Concourse and amphitheatre Intrec Management Pty Ltd

4.2 Performance measurement

QBuild as the project and procurement managers were responsible for the performance measurement of consultants and contractors for the works.

A majority of the projects were completed on time and on budget with some minor variation on schedules and costs for the following projects:

Project	Issue	Reason
A Block café	Delayed	Latent conditions discovered during construction stage
External lighting	Delayed	Functional and in-use within original timeframe but footing rectification held up handover
External lighting	Over budget	Project came in under budget once tendered so scope was increased during construction
Concourse and Amphitheatre	Delayed	Functionally suitable within original timeframe but wet weather delayed contractual handover

Assessment of the works post-construction undertaken by TAFE Queensland with support from QBuild shows the work delivered by contractors were of high quality with minimal defects detected after handover to TAFE Queensland.

5.0 Project Success

TAFE Queensland, as the primary tenants and users of training infrastructure continues to undertake assessments of new facilities and the impact to training delivery related to the upgrade works at the Mount Gravatt campus.

Student enrolments at the Mount Gravatt TAFE campus has seen a total 48.9% increase overall since 2018-19, as shown below:

	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	%
Fashion	229	198	294	28.4
Screen and Media	160	181	190	18.8
Horticulture	98	70	84	-14.3
Other	943	1251	1561	65.5
Total	1430	1700	2129	48.9

With a broad increase in training demand across the state driven by industry need and increased funding, TAFE Queensland is experiencing an increase in enrolments – a growth of almost 30,000 students from 2019-20 to 2020-21.

The investment into upgrading and building new facilities at high demand campuses continues to accommodate this growth, while ensuring that industry training requirements are met through increasingly contemporary and cutting-edge facilities.

Across the Greater Brisbane region, demand will continue to grow from the fashion, screen and media and horticulture industries to 2024-25. Jobs Queensland forecasting in the following table shows significant change in these industries, showing mostly above average change of forecast 10.9% increase of jobs across Queensland over the next three (3) years:

	Current employed	New jobs	Forecast change (%)
Textile, Clothing and Footwear Wholesaling	2,159	353	19.6
Information Media and Telecommunications	21,721	1,083	5.2
Nursery and Floriculture Production	402	43	12.0

Source: Jobs Queensland Anticipating Future Skills (jobsqueensland.qld.gov.au)

The investment at the Mount Gravatt campus will continue to ensure the regional demand for these skills can be accommodated at industry-relevant training facilities.

5.1 Horticulture

Horticulture is an in-demand industry with many TAFE Queensland students achieving employment upon completion of Certificate II, instead of progressing to further study. This includes jobs and apprenticeships in landscape maintenance.

The new horticulture facilities at the Mount Gravatt campus mimic industry standards, including a retail nursery which provides students a real-world experience with paying customers. With improved facilities, the nursery is open for sales every Friday morning and twice a year on a Saturday.

The experience has increased student outcomes with many students achieving employment in nursery retail such as Bunnings and other general and boutique nurseries.

TAFE Queensland students gain work experience through partners like:

- Brisbane City Council;
- Penfold Projects Landscape;
- Habitat Landscapes;
- · Advance Plants; and
- Martin Brothers.

These industry partners also regularly visit the training facilities and have endorsed their correlation to industry standards.

Since the upgrades and revitalisation works, student completions have shown marked increases in the Certificate III in Horticulture course from 65.4% in 2019 to 96.1% in Semester 2 2021.

Student satisfaction collated via student surveys also noted a 100% satisfaction in 2021 on the delivery of the courses with increased satisfaction regarding resources and facilities.

5.2 Fashion Centre of Excellence

The Fashion Centre of Excellence redevelopment has enhanced TAFE Queensland's profile across the fashion industry. The improved profile has supported student competitiveness with global designers including George Wu and Kitten D'Amour offering graduates positions.

Other graduates have also enjoyed success with their own labels.

Industry has recognised the significance of the new facilities, with Brisbane-based textile company Full Circle Fibres noting that the skills being developed at the Fashion Centre of Excellence goes beyond fashion into PPE, defence, health, interiors and other products (Appendix 2).

The upgrades have also attracted state-wide events to the campus, including the Apex Australia Teenage Fashion & Arts (AATFA) Youth Festival. The Queensland state finals was hosted on campus, giving very talented young designers and fashion teaching staff access to the fashion facilities.

5.3 Screen and Media

The upgrades to I Block facilities has enabled TAFE screen and media students the opportunity to gain industry-level experience, with students having the ability to access facilities built to industry standards. The combined upgrades to the training facilities has allowed collaborative work between TAFE fashion, and Diploma Film and TV students through the 2021 ICON Graduate Fashion Show.

The new facilities also provided students the opportunity to hold their graduate Greenlight Film Festival with improved equipment and spaces.

Appendix 1

Stage 1 – Fashion Centre of Excellence and general campus works	Approved Funding (\$M)	Budget (\$M)	Actual Expenditure (\$M)
Enable Fashion Centre of Excellence precinct at Block G			
S1 Stage 2 fit out of the Fashion Centre of Excellence on Level 2	\$4.434	\$2.981	\$2.929
S2 New deck and walkway at Block G Level 2	\$0.418	\$0.203	\$0.196
S3 New façade and entry between Blocks G and B	\$0.261	\$0.230	\$0.193
Sub total	\$5.113	\$3.413	\$3.317
Improve the campus experience			
S1 Upgrade cafeteria and Hospitality on Block A Ground Floor	\$0.745	\$0.594	\$0.604
S2 Develop new signage across the campus	\$0.151	\$0.547	\$0.478
S3 Relocate campus security to Block F Level 1 and install CCTV	\$1.358	\$0.577	\$0.428
S4 Improve lighting to pedestrian thoroughfares and main car park	\$2.136	\$0.763	\$0.737
Sub total	\$4.390	\$2.482	\$2.246
Total	\$9.503	\$5.895	\$5.564
Stage 2 – Horticulture, media, and			
administration works			
A Block relocation and consolidation of administration	\$0.365	\$0.354	\$0.354
F Block revitalisation of ground floor Horticulture Maker space refurbishment	\$1.724	\$2.273	\$1.934
I Block revitalisation of theatre, film, and TV	\$1.965	\$2.842	\$3.335
Total	\$4.054	\$5.468	\$5.623
Demolition on Block T & E	\$0.414	\$0.043	\$0.043
DHPW (QBuild) implementation costs	\$0.841	\$0.000	\$0.000
Unallocated costs (contingency value)	\$0.602	\$0.000	\$0.000
Total	\$5.911	\$5.511	\$5.665
Additional works – Annual Training Infrastructure Program			
J Block refurbishment	\$1.500	\$1.500	\$1.432
G2 Block (Stage 2)	\$1.500	\$2.773	\$2.762
A Block refit	\$4.540	\$4.015	\$4.014
A Block Horticulture GLA	\$0.414	\$0.083	\$0.083
Total	\$7.954	\$8.371	\$8.291
Grand Total	\$23.368	\$19.777	\$19.520

Appendix 2



February 2022

To whomever it may concern.

Full Circle Fibres is pleased to support TQB Fashion Centre of Excellence at Mount Gravatt. I am a Brisbane based textile business working with local manufacturers, and am a Textile Technologist with over 20 years global experience. I also sit on the IRC for TCF and the QLD Government Gateway Industry Reference Group for the Gateway to Industry Program for Schools, Advanced Manufacturing fo

Quite simply, in South East QLD, it's the only place I recommend people interested in working in Fashion and Apparel go to study. The team are fantastically experienced and dedicated, and the facilities are incredible. The only challenge we now have in industry is enough skilled workers to make apparel locally – this means TQB's Fashion centre of excellence is critically important to our industry. Noting the skills developed here are used far beyond fashion, in PPE, defence, health, interior fit outs and more.

The facility improvements have been developed with world class teaching and training in mind, both the quality of the spaces and the range of equipment, work areas, testing areas and machines available to the students give them more opportunity than ever before to have strong practical skills that we in industry prize so much.

The Fashion Centre is Impressive - the new spaces are state of the art enabling the students and future fashion leaders to develop their skills to the highest level.

All spaces enable the growth of today's students and the ability of the teaching staff to teach boundlessly, and the size of the spaces is so welcome, fantastic size cutting tables, and work rooms so the flow of design to creation and production can really occur – this is rarely resourced well, and TQB Mt Gravatt is a shining example.

The CLO system – enables next level digital sampling to reduce physical samples needed in production, and can reduce mistakes too. This is huge for working more sustainably and in globally networked supply chains where literacy in the CAD systems used worldwide is a massive asset.

The tech lab with the laser cutter, fabric testing and 3D printer enables the extension of the designs that the students currently make which will take the final ranges and products to the next level.

To list everything that's available would be lengthy, but noting the inclusion of leather handling and embellishment, stud applications, laser cutting and 3D printing brings together the product development tools for items that cross over from just textile handling to other hard and soft finishing that makes an item functional and fit for purpose, or indeed a combination of these with next generation design skills pushing boundaries of creativity.

It's always been a pleasure to support events at TAFE, however it's notable in the last 2 years the engagement from industry has significantly grown, and it's been a marvellous opportunity to catch up with others in business locally too, and I've made some other great network connections as a

result of it that will likely result in future collaboration, and indeed often means we can recommend each other to clients when we know that's what they need.

I always recommend people look to find a TAFE graduate if they are looking for someone with practical garment knowledge for their business, the diploma and adv diploma courses are the best place to get this experience in S.E.QLD. — I recommend them above any of the degrees!

TQB Mt Gravatt is becoming a welcoming and easy to access hub for the TCF industry in general in Brisbane and SEQ.

Yours,

Meriel Chamberlin, Founder