



Speech by

**KAREN STRUTHERS**

**MEMBER FOR ARCHERFIELD**

---

Hansard 25 August 1999

### SKILLS WEEK

**Ms STRUTHERS** (Archerfield—ALP) (10.20 a.m.): This morning I had the pleasure of launching the State Government sponsored Skills Week in my region at the Construction Training Centre at Salisbury, an excellent partnership facility between industry, Government, unions and TAFE. Around 80 local employers attended—a great show of support for training in their industries.

It is well documented that effective training improves productivity. Training is therefore an essential business investment. It is also well known that if we fail to keep employees up to date with the latest skills and technologies, our capacity for economic growth will be stifled.

My message to employers this morning was that there has never been a better time to take on apprentices and trainees. Training options are widely available, and the Training Minister, Paul Braddy, has expanded the incentives available to employers to take on apprentices and trainees.

I also give a plug to Q-Build. I acknowledge the Minister for Public Works, Robert Schwarten, for his commitment to growth in apprenticeship opportunities within Q-Build. This morning I met Daniel Gill, Apprentice of the Year for 1998. Daniel is a stonemason with Q-Build. He praised Q-Build for the opportunities and training given to him and he also said that Q-Build's safety record far exceeds that of other contractors that he has worked alongside. Daniel Gill is one of many committed Q-Build employees.

Our Government is determined to provide career paths for many more young men and women such as Daniel. This morning I called on private employers to take on a Daniel or a Danielle and play a key role in giving a future to our young people.

---