



Speech by

Hon. P. BRADDY

MEMBER FOR KEDRON

Hansard 1 December 1999

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Vocational Education and Training

Hon. P. J. BRADDY (Kedron—ALP) (Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations) (9.53 a.m.), by leave: I wish to advise the House of Queensland's growing record of achievement in vocational education and training under the Beattie Government. First, I inform honourable members of the State's success at the recent Australian Training Awards. Queensland won the Vocational Student of the Year Award, with the title going to Catherine McAvoy from Innisfail. Catherine studied for her Diploma of Applied Science in Tropical Agriculture at the Australian College of Tropical Agriculture, formerly the Burdekin Agricultural College. She now works at the Bureau of Sugar Experiment Stations at Innisfail.

The Wide Bay Institute of TAFE had a joint win with Spencer Institute from South Australia in the Training Provider of the Year category. The Wide Bay Institute is the largest and most established provider of vocational education and training in the Wide Bay region and is playing a major role in the development of that region. Further success at the national awards went to Andrew Holmes, a cutter and wetsuit designer from the Gold Coast who was runner-up in the New Apprenticeships (Trainee) of the Year Award. Queensland Health's Wide Bay Linen Services won the Industry Category Award—Light Manufacturing. Avenues for Success, comprising Beerwah State High School, Cooloola Sunshine Institute of TAFE, Cadet Group Training and Sunshine Coast Group Training Company, won a special commendation in the VET in Schools Excellence Award. This is Queensland's best ever performance at the Australian Training Awards.

It also gives me great pleasure to inform the House that several TAFE Queensland students have made their mark both nationally and internationally in a prestigious skills competition. Shannon Ashe, a graduate from the North Point Institute of TAFE in Brisbane, won a gold medal at the World Skills Competition in Canada in November. Shannon had to compete against 128 fellow Australians for the honour of representing his country against 21 international competitors in the automotive mechanic category. He is now recognised as the best in his trade in the world.

Two other TAFE Queensland students also represented the State at this major event. Yeronga TAFE student Nathan Henderson represented Australia in carpentry, while Moreton Institute student Isaac Prior represented the country in commercial wiring. This competition can best be likened to a skills Olympics. It is undoubtedly the most highly ranked competition in the world for trade, office and information technology personnel. Shannon's victory is further testimony to the high standard of training being provided through TAFE Queensland.

I also advise the House of two recent surveys again endorsing the high standard of training being provided in this State. At the end of May the National Centre for Vocational Education Research surveyed nearly 8,300 TAFE Queensland graduates and students who completed modules in 1998. Their results showed that almost three out of every four TAFE Queensland graduates were employed after their training last year. To ensure that the TAFE sector is on track in achieving its goals, annual client satisfaction surveys are carried out to ascertain how the organisation is performing as a provider of vocational education and training. Results from the 1999 client satisfaction survey conducted by Service Management Australia showed that TAFE Queensland institutes are continuing to maintain a consistently high level of satisfaction among their clients, from both students and the business sector.

The survey found that TAFE Queensland consistently outperformed national averages. In the student satisfaction category, Queensland rated higher than the national average, as did the level of quality which students believed TAFE teachers exhibited in the course of their studies. Some 92 per cent of students and 91 per cent of business clients who participated in the survey said that they would recommend TAFE Queensland to others. With the launch this year of a new vision and constitution for TAFE, we can only further improve this record. I congratulate all involved and look forward to even stronger levels of satisfaction among TAFE clients in the future.
