



Speech by

Hon. GORDON NUTTALL

MEMBER FOR SANDGATE

Hansard 9 May 2002

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT Smart State Training Initiative

Hon. G. R. NUTTALL (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Industrial Relations) (10.21 a.m.), by leave: The Queensland Labor government is leading Australian industry in the development of innovative Smart State training initiatives for our own 175,000 employees. Over the past 12 months we have been implementing a training initiative that is not only the first of its kind in Australia but is already being adopted as a model in other states and by other industries.

The new public sector training initiative puts public sector employees all across Queensland in touch with national training programs and qualifications—literally at the touch of a button over the Internet. It makes training easier and more accessible than ever before to keep our workers as skilled as any in the country, and to encourage our workers to want to update and add to their existing skills and qualifications. Under the new model, training is being rolled out in stages, initially targeting entry-level employees in administration and operations. Eventually, training for all public sector occupations and classifications will be integrated into the new training system.

Some 1,400 workers have already signed up as part of stage 1 of the program, training in areas such as asset maintenance, transport and distribution, client services, IT and software applications. This targeted training is undertaken at no cost to employees, and in many cases learning and assessment can take place in the workplace. There is recognition for a worker's prior experience and competency, and they are encouraged to access online learning materials and advice from TAFE Queensland trainers as well.

I am pleased to say the first year of operation has been an outstanding success. Almost 10 per cent of eligible employees have enrolled for training since January 2001. Right now stage 2 is under way in a program that, as I said earlier, puts the Queensland government at the forefront of innovation in training for our own employees and leads the way for other states and industry.
