



Speech by

Jo-Ann Miller

MEMBER FOR BUNDAMBA

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VOCATIONAL EDUCATION, TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT AMENDMENT BILL 2004

Mrs MILLER (Bundamba—ALP) (3.58 pm): I rise to support the Vocational Education, Training and Employment Amendment Bill 2004. The bill is yet another example of the Queensland government working to improve the effectiveness and performance of advisory bodies in this state. By abolishing the Training and Employment Board and transferring relevant functions to the Training and Employment Recognition Council, improvements in efficiency and performance can be gained by allowing one statutory body to exercise both advisory and executive functions. The executive functions which entail direct knowledge about issues in the vocational education and training sector will support the council to provide informed advice to institute directors and the minister. Merging the board and the council will also allow the establishment of a top-quality advisory body made up of the highest standard appointees and tailored to best meet the needs of government. This bill also amends the arrangements for TAFE institute councils, reducing the maximum number of persons on a council from 20 to 15.

This is intended to improve the capacity of institute councils for effective and timely decision making. Merging the board and the council in amending arrangements for TAFE institute councils are both positive developments. They will ensure that the Queensland training sector receives timely and informed advice regarding the specific needs of industry and the community. This can only contribute to an even higher standard of quality for vocational education and training in Queensland.

It is commendable that this bill will provide clear legislative authority for fees relating to the registration of training organisations, the accreditation of courses and the recognition of vocational placement schemes. Registered training organisations deliver quality training to many thousands of Queenslanders each year, contributing significantly to the skills profile of the state. These amendments recognise the importance of registered training organisations in skilling Queenslanders and aim to facilitate the process.

The Bremer Institute of TAFE has its headquarters in my electorate at Station Hill, Bundamba. It is an excellent training provider. The Bremer Institute of TAFE was successful in winning the Large Training Provider of the Year award at the Queensland Training Awards and was a finalist in the Australian Training Awards. The institute's Certificate III in Meetings and Events students will be managing the regional training awards to be held in September this year. I would like to congratulate the students on their work. The Bremer TAFE training specialists are assisting clients in achieving formal recognition of their life's experiences through actively participating in the SmartVET RPL initiatives in commercial cookery, aged care and engineering.

Through networking and community liaison, the Bremer Institute of TAFE is developing a wide range of culturally customised courses designed to meet the training needs of the Indigenous community, such as a Certificate III in Aged Care for Indigenous health workers to assist in career pathways into the health industry. The Bremer TAFE has also been very proactive in ETRF initiatives, being involved in Get Set for Work programs, Back to Learning programs, school vocational pathways, youth and community

organisations and local government agencies. Flexible delivery is expanding into rural regions through these collaborative programs.

The western corridor industry schools partnership group has been initiated to link schools, the Bremer Institute of TAFE and industry to highlight career opportunities for school students to meet the changing demands of the manufacturing industry. The Bremer Institute of TAFE has also initiated the Adopt a TAFE Teacher program in an endeavour to build a greater understanding of vocational education and training and industry demands in the whole of the school community including students, teachers and parents.

An increase of 300 apprentices in the last six months in engineering, electrical and construction trades has been a real feature of the Bremer Institute of TAFE. The Bremer Institute has initiated a flexible delivery strategy to accommodate the employer demands for training. The Bremer Institute also has lead accountability for the community services training for the whole of Queensland. Managing the delivery of training of the community services sector in partnership with the Queensland Community Services and Health Industries Training Council is part of the role of our Bremer TAFE. The Bremer Institute of TAFE is an integral part of our Ipswich community. In fact, its aeroplane float was part of the Ipswich Festival parade this year led by Kaylene Harth and up to I think about 30 TAFE teachers and supporters of the TAFE college. We were there walking alongside the aeroplane float and we did very well to be in that Ipswich Festival parade. I was quite amazed that up to 30 TAFE teachers were there and also the administrative staff.

I would like to thank the departmental staff who have assisted in relation to this legislation. In particular, I would like to thank Rob Camm, Jeff Favill and Neil Miller, who have been a part of this process. I thank them for the good work that the departmental team does in Toowoomba. John Bird does a fantastic job at the Toowoomba DET office, and I would ask the minister to pass on our kind words to him and his team, particularly the people involved in Breaking the Unemployment Cycle because that is how we get our people back to work. We have a very successful rate of getting our people back to work in the Bundamba electorate. I commend the bill to the House.