



Speech by

# Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe


MEMBER FOR STAFFORD

Hansard Wednesday, 11 May 2011

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## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

### Skills Development

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Employment, Skills and Mining) (10.06 am): We know that there is big growth ahead for our state's economy, particularly in the minerals and resources sector. This means more job opportunities for more Queenslanders and it is essential that Queenslanders are given the best chance to take full advantage of what is on offer.

Queensland has led the way on skills development programs and established Skills Queensland last year to partner with industry and make sure employers are helping to guide skills development. The \$3 billion national training package announced by the federal Treasurer last night complements our approach and will help our state meet its full economic potential and help more Queenslanders into more jobs.

There is no doubt that we need every Queenslanders who is capable of working to either put their hand up for a job or undergo training to prepare for the workforce. That is why we welcome the industry-led approach announced last night including: \$101 million to help apprentices complete their training through a national mentoring program for 40,000 apprentices; \$100 million to help apprentices gain their qualifications sooner; a \$558 million partnership with industry to develop the National Workforce Development Fund; \$143 million to provide an extra 30,000 language, literacy and numeracy places to help jobseekers gain foundation skills; and an estimated 130,000 industry based training places.

This national investment complements the strong skills development program we already have in Queensland including: a \$50 million Strategic Investment Fund provided to Skills Queensland to drive real change within Queensland's skills and workforce development sectors; \$5 million, matched by industry, for the CSG/LNG industry training program to respond to industry operational workforce needs; and the work of Skills Queensland with major employers on workforce development plans for Queensland's economic hot spots in both the Surat Basin and Gladstone regions and shortly in the Bowen and Galilee Basins. All of this comes on top of the skills training that goes on in TAFE colleges and worksites across the length and breadth of this great state every day.

Queensland is experiencing a mining and resources boom and with that comes great job opportunities for Queenslanders across our great state. This government is partnering with industry and working with the federal government to make sure that it is Queenslanders who benefit.