



Speech by  
**Desley Scott**

**MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE**

Hansard Thursday, 21 June 2012

---

## **VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING (COMMONWEALTH POWERS) BILL**



**Mrs SCOTT** (Woodridge—ALP) (4.54 pm): Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker.

**Mr Malone:** Thank you very much, Madam Deputy Speaker.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Mirani, I have called the member for Woodridge.

**Mrs SCOTT:** Thank you. It is a privilege to speak in this House on the Vocational Education and Training (Commonwealth Powers) Bill 2012—issues of vital importance in my electorate of Woodridge. This bill will set in train the adoption of the National Vocational Education and Training Regulator Act 2011 (Commonwealth) and the National Vocational Education and Training Regulator (Transitional Provisions) Act 2011 (Commonwealth), bringing all registered training organisations under the federal umbrella to comply with national reforms as agreed by COAG, the Council of Australian Governments, in 2009.

The national regulator, the Australian Skills Quality Authority, will ensure quality and consistency in services and apply sanctions should RTOs not reach acceptable standards of education and training. Sadly, I recall in the past that there have been occasions which have damaged the international reputation of Australia as a top quality provider of vocational education and training. This will ensure quality services across the nation.

I believe that in Logan City we have many top quality providers, and I am often invited to graduations celebrating so many of my constituents who have been given the skills required to enter paid employment positions, making them 'job ready'. I note that special provision is being made to ensure that our school sector is not adversely affected by the difficulty in meeting additional costs of RTO fees.

I wish to now direct my comments to the sector which will not be included under this federal scheme—that is, apprenticeships and traineeships, which are so important for many of our young people. These will come under the umbrella of Skills Queensland, which will ensure that the quality of our system continues. Our school based apprenticeship scheme has been quite successful, and I am very hopeful it will grow so much more. Next month two trades training centres will be opened in two of my high schools—namely, Kingston State College and Mabel Park State High School. This is a partnership between these two schools and will provide both engineering and carpentry for students in this catchment area. Built with Commonwealth funding, these facilities will bring so many increased opportunities for these students.

**Mr Rickuss:** How many kids at Kingston now, Desley?

**Mrs SCOTT:** Probably about 700 or so—nowhere near when Kev Lingard was there. It was the biggest in Queensland then. These facilities will bring so many increased opportunities for these students. SkillsTech, constructed by our state government on the old BHP steelworks site, is one of the finest facilities, with apprentices in a huge number of industries. It was a very visionary project for which we must thank a former member for Waterford and minister, Tom Barton.

**Mr Mulherin:** Elvis Presley.

**Mrs SCOTT:** Elvis Presley, yes. Well done, Tom. Our Logan campus of the Metropolitan South Institute of TAFE is serving our community in a very positive way. They offer courses in English language

for our newly arrived former refugees and guide them in the early months when they have so many bewildering things to learn about their new country. Eager to learn, they are given great opportunities. Our TAFE college has fashioned its courses to best serve the needs of our community. Enrolled nursing attracts many, and their practice facility, with several wards set up to mimic real hospital conditions, is first class. Hospitality is also highly regarded and a visit to their hairdressing and beauty salon shows how these students are given very real-life experience and very fair prices are offered to members of our community who visit. Computing, business and other courses also give very real practical training.

Other areas which will be retained within the state jurisdiction will be pool safety inspections and the responsible service of gambling. These courses have been specifically designed and are working well in this state. Our vocational and education sector, as well as our apprenticeships and traineeships, are vital to giving more and more of my constituents the skills they need to enter the workforce and enjoy the financial independence that brings, to be able to support themselves and their families and to gain the satisfaction of getting up each day, working hard and knowing that we are all contributing to both the economy and the wellbeing of our state and country. I commend the bill to the House.