




Speech By  
**Mark Boothman**

**MEMBER FOR ALBERT**

---

Record of Proceedings, 15 October 2013

**VOCATIONAL EDUCATION, TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT (SKILLS QUEENSLAND) AND ANOTHER ACT AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Albert—LNP) (4.33 pm): I rise today to make a brief contribution to the Vocational Education, Training and Employment (Skills Queensland) and Another Act Amendment Bill 2013. Education is the cornerstone of modern society. As Nelson Mandela famously stated, 'Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.' In Queensland our focus is on using education to prepare the current and next generations for the rigours of a changing world in a changing marketplace. I believe that what Nelson Mandela said is a truly factual comment. Education is the most powerful tool we have to change our lives, the destiny of our state and our country. Education was highlighted during the Queensland Plan by being voted the most important topic. It shows the emphasis that Queenslanders place on education with real outcomes. One of my school principals, Colin Torr, was a delegate on the Albert team and participated in the Queensland Plan summit. The issues he brought up were very factual and thought-provoking.

Education facilities have to provide relevant courses that industry demands and deliver real employment outcomes. My fellow parliamentarians would all agree with me that when we visit our schools we see our most valuable assets. Our future is in their hands. I take the liberty of speaking on behalf of all parents when I say that all we want is the best chance at a fruitful life for our children, with strong career pathways and education certificates that will deliver them the edge with employment opportunities locally, nationally and globally. To highlight the wonderful work of teachers in our schools, the students at Mount Warren Park State School improved in 12 NAPLAN areas. This is certainly a great result.

Disappointingly, Skills Queensland, which was established in 2010 to meet the demands of industry, was not effective. It failed to be the catalyst to bridge the needs of industry into an educational environment. Great Skills, Real Opportunities is a key action plan to encourage government, industry and employers to partner effectively to meet demand through appropriate training that is aligned with job opportunities. Furthermore, Great Skills, Real Opportunities is focused on the establishment of an industry advisory body, the Ministerial Industry Commission. Its role is to investigate Queensland's skilling priorities and industry needs through priority funding for qualifications that have real job outcomes.

To highlight the importance of vocational education and training, the certificate III guarantee, selected registered training organisations will compete for an additional \$42 million in funding this financial year. In addition, by July 2014 all government subsidised training will be delivered on a contestable field. This will give students the necessary choice in a training provider they feel best suits the pathway they are pursuing.

Building the economy of tomorrow takes planning and consultation with all levels of industry to identify skill requirements and industry expansion. The commission will be made up of individuals with front-line experience in the industry sector and employer bodies. This is about making hard-earned

taxpayers' money go further by directing it towards priority training facilities that will deliver real results. I would like to thank my fellow committee members, committee chair Rosemary Menkens and the staff, Bernice, Emily and Geoffrey. Most importantly, I would like to thank the minister for this progressive legislation. Having a young family—a daughter and a son who will be attending prep and primary school in the near future—it is heartwarming for me to see this legislation coming through to provide a better future for our children. I support this bill.