




Speech By
Hon. John-Paul Langbroek

MEMBER FOR SURFERS PARADISE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Vocational Education and Training

 **Hon. JH LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (Minister for Education, Training and Employment) (9.58 am): When it comes to vocational education and training, the Newman government's top priorities are making sure that Queensland's students get a first-class education and a job at the end of it. For those of us on this side of the House there is nothing more important. This is the foundation stone of our VET reforms, putting in place a concrete link between the jobs that employers and industry have told us will be available and the qualifications that the government pays for Queenslanders to undertake. That is why I am proud of our \$615 million 2014-15 VET investment plan. By making job outcomes our focus, we are giving young people the tools they need to get the best possible start to their working lives.

Those on the other side of the House like to think that there are certain issues only they can be trusted to truly look after, and one of these things is vocational education and training. But as usual, that could not be further from the truth because while they were in government, Labor funded training for the sake of training. What does that mean? Labor did not want to focus on linking training with job outcomes because they do not know how.

They spent a fortune in taxpayers money so that our young people could engage in endless training, undertaking endless certificates. It distracted them from the fact that they were not getting a job at the end of it. Labor did not see training as a means to an end—that end being a meaningful job—but rather as an end in itself. What is their plan for training if they were to be re-elected: to do exactly what they were doing when they were booted out two years ago? I do not think this would be accepted by Queenslanders.

Does the Labor Party have an issue with fee-free training for year 12 students who undertake training in priority skills areas? What about the certificate III guarantee that allows eligible Queenslanders to get not only their first post-school qualification but also an entry-level qualification that employers have told us is most important to getting a job. Would they get rid of that? Do they support the schools-to-trade pathway, where we incentivise employers to keep kids on when they have done a school based apprenticeship, or our Indigenous training strategy—our \$6 million plan to encourage Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to participate in training?

Those opposite may not be able to admit it, but when it comes to giving young people the skills they need to get a job, the Newman government has the runs on the board.

(Time expired)