




Speech By
Joseph Kelly

MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES

Record of Proceedings, 15 July 2015

QUEENSLAND TRAINING ASSETS MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY REPEAL BILL

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (10.18 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Queensland Training Assets Management Authority Repeal Bill 2015. I support the objectives of this bill. Imagine a situation where a parent of a student at a local state school is told that their child's class will not proceed because their classrooms are being used by a private education provider. Perhaps we should consider the reaction from the community if swimming lessons at the local state school were cancelled because a private swimming instructor was now renting the pool. The reaction would be immediate and the outrage would be palpable. Sadly, this is exactly the situation that was being allowed to develop while TAFE's educational assets were being managed by QTAMA. In my own community the number of courses offered by TAFE at the Mount Gravatt campus has fallen dramatically. I have no doubt that if not for a change of government, that campus would have been closed.

During recent discussions with senior management at TAFE I was informed that many courses had been shifted away from the Mount Gravatt campus due to increased costs associated with QTAMA. I asked what had happened to the students and I was advised that some followed the courses to other campuses, some went to private sector providers, but sadly a significant proportion simply dropped out of the educational system. At a time of growing youth unemployment, those opposite presided over a system that drove students out of TAFE. Those are the people who I support this bill for: the most vulnerable; the people who need TAFE services delivered in their community.

This bill does not shut the door on the private provision of vocational education and training. It recognises that we need a mix of public and private provision in the VET industry, but it also recognises that TAFE is the major provider and is focused on providing services across the entire community, particularly in areas where the private sector will not operate. This bill recognises that many private providers have signed contracts with QTAMA and it puts in place arrangements to honour those contracts. The bill demonstrates that this government will work with all parts of the VET industry to deliver good training outcomes for Queenslanders.

Finally, I note that the minister has made it very clear that, when QTAMA is abolished, the government will conduct an audit of all training assets and develop a 10-year asset management plan. I have already met the minister and will take the opportunity to talk to students, constituents, local businesses, community groups, teachers and TAFE staff about the future of the campus and services at Mount Gravatt. We are serious about listening to the community and we are serious about working with all stakeholders to deliver high-quality vocational education and training. The Palaszczuk government is serious about creating jobs now and in the future. Minister D'Ath is to be commended for working so hard to rescue TAFE.

I will support this bill so that we can get rid of QTAMA and focus on developing a real plan for delivering vocational education and training. I commend this bill to the House.