



Speech By  
**Nikki Boyd**


**MEMBER FOR PINE RIVERS**

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**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**BIGA Training**

 **Miss BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (2.56 pm): Based in Brendale, the industrial hub of Pine Rivers, is BIGA Training, a registered training organisation that has been providing training to the building and construction industry for some 34 years. I have had the pleasure of visiting BIGA twice now, once as a candidate in January and again as the member for Pine Rivers in April. I am pleased to report to the House that under the Palaszczuk government this not-for-profit training organisation has provided record-level highs of new apprentice sign-ons through the month of March.

The future is bright for BIGA, which provides practical hands-on training through customised training plans to meet the needs of employers and apprentices. The BIGA board has representatives from industry associations such as the Master Builders Association, the CFMEU, the Association of Wall and Ceiling Industries and BERT Training Australia. BIGA offers apprenticeships in carpentry, bricklaying, painting and decorating, wall and floor tiling, and wall and ceiling lining. It also offers short courses in the removal of asbestos, elevated work platforms, Queensland construction white cards and safe working at heights. BIGA has the ability to customise or develop courses to suit specific purposes and, excitingly, it offers recognition of prior learning for those in our community with six years or more of construction industry experience. From my discussions, I have an appreciation for the focus that it has on ensuring that not commonly used techniques of the trade are taught and perfected to ensure that those techniques live on in an age of prefabricated materials.

My last visit to BIGA Training was very shortly after the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program had been announced. To his credit, Brad asked with excitement for detail about the package. The work BIGA is doing is outstanding, but what I say now is that now we need more of it. That is why I am proud to be part of a team that supports the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program, which was a key part of our pre-election priorities and is now delivered as promised by this Labor government. Skilling Queenslanders for Work means that 32,000 Queenslanders will receive help, that is, 32,000 people who are amongst those who have found it hardest to break into our workforce. It is a model much like BIGA; it is a model that works. It is a model that we should never have seen dismantled. Skilling Queenslanders for Work is a \$240 million investment in the future of our state's workforce that will return dividends in real terms, just as it did under the previous Labor government.

I am proud of the work that BIGA is doing in my electorate. I am proud that we will see more of it under the Palaszczuk government's Skilling Queenslanders for Work package. It has been lacking over the last three years and it will only be delivered under a Labor government.