



Speech By  
**Hon. Yvette D'Ath**


**MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE**

---

Record of Proceedings, 15 July 2015

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Budget, Jobs and Training**

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (2.22 pm): Today I rise to update the House on one of the many important initiatives as part of this government's commitment to the Working Queensland policy initiative and jobs now, jobs for the future. The budget delivers on this commitment to drive jobs and highlights the need to focus on training and skills—quality training and skills—because to grow our economy, deliver new industries and foster innovation Queensland needs a workforce that is up to the challenge. That is why quality training and skills are so important to future job creation and innovation.

I am proud that yesterday's budget included \$4 million to deliver on our election commitment to establish an independent Training Ombudsman for Queensland. I am also proud to be part of a government that is committed to stakeholder consultation to guide the implementation of this election commitment. On 2 July I hosted a stakeholders round table to discuss the reinstatement of the Queensland Training Ombudsman, inviting participants from right across the sector. Participants included CEOs from the Queensland branches of the Australian Council for Private Education and Training, Apprenticeships Queensland and TAFE Queensland. The chief commissioner of ASQA, the executive director of the Office of Fair Trading and a number of other significant industry representatives participated. I want to sincerely thank everyone who attended and participated in the round table. I appreciate everyone taking time out of their busy schedules to help shape the role of the future Training Ombudsman, and their ideas and vision for the sector were welcomed. The diverse insights provided by stakeholders from across the sector will ensure that our new independent Training Ombudsman addresses the needs of the sector.

The former government's interpretation of consultation was to find organisations that supported its strong plan and ignore everyone else—or, as we know in the community and legal sector, actively gag people and organisations from expressing their views at all. The Palaszczuk government is committed to consulting with Queenslanders to ensure we get things right, including the implementation of the independent Training Ombudsman. Information gained from the round table included collaboratively working with other agencies to avoid duplication of roles, and it was a timely reminder of our priority to work with industry and public providers to develop jobs for the future and to ensure we have the skilled workforce our economic growth depends on. We do this because we are delivering on our election commitment to Queenslanders and we do this because that is what Labor governments believe in—providing the opportunity for all Queenslanders to access training and skills to get into the workforce and contribute. We will give Queenslanders the security of knowing that when they enter into training they will get the quality service they deserve and employers will get the skilled workers that they need for their businesses now and into the future.