




Speech By
Joseph Kelly

MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES

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ADJOURNMENT

Mount Gravatt Electorate, TAFE Campus

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (2.53 am): I rise to speak about the excellent work being done by staff at the Mount Gravatt campus of TAFE. This campus has been an integral part of our community, providing vocational training and support in a wide range of areas. For years the campus has been the centre of the fashion industry in Queensland, turning out designers and other staff who work in the industry and who lead this industry not just here in Queensland but also around the world. This is rightly something that people in our community are proud of. It is extremely common to meet constituents who have benefited from the education they received at this campus. People tell me how important this campus is for our local community and how the education they or their children received has helped to set them on a course for a fulfilling and meaningful career.

Just last year I worked with the team from Small Business Solutions, which is based at this campus. They did excellent work helping a local high school tuckshop develop a business plan. Through that process I learned of the many people and businesses that this organisation helps. Like people in my community, I have always been aware of the good work done by TAFE and I have always been pleased to have a campus nearby. After finishing my hospital based nurse training, I found myself in management positions in not-for-profit organisations. I did not have an academic background and, while I recognised that I needed further training, I did not feel I was ready for university. I instead turned to TAFE, which offered a more flexible, practical and affordable approach. I have benefitted greatly from this, and it gave me the skills I needed immediately, as well as the interest and confidence to complete two further university qualifications.

Sadly, under the Newman government the Mount Gravatt campus of TAFE did not fare well. Student numbers have declined dramatically as courses were withdrawn or as fees were pushed to levels that drove students away. The campus is still there, set in beautiful bushland surroundings. The buildings and infrastructure are still there. The fashion courses are still there and they are still world-class. There are several other courses still offered on site, but visiting this campus now is like visiting a ghost town—a ghost town created by Campbell Newman which at the time was surrounded by three electorates held by the LNP, whose members said nothing while this occurred. Unlike the LNP, Labor believes in providing Queenslanders with the opportunity for training to get into jobs and to upskill. That is why since the election the Palaszczuk government has abolished QTAMA, returning our public training assets to the people of Queensland.

We are investing in TAFE through our Rescuing TAFE package, and TAFE management have been working hard to attract students back to the campus. Since my election I have had frequent meetings with the minister. I know that she cares about building a strong public training provider. I was pleased to bring her to the campus and show her the facilities. I will be working hard to ensure this community gets a strong voice in the future of TAFE and the Mount Gravatt campus, because I believe that we need to make sure we continue to offer services at this campus for our community so we can deliver the jobs of the future.