




Speech By
Hon. Yvette D'Ath

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

Record of Proceedings, 17 June 2016

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Employment and Training

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (9.50 am): This government is committed to delivering the skilled workforce that Queensland needs for economic growth. The government is investing in training and skills to help build the workforce that we need to attract and build new industries, expand existing industries and create jobs. That is why this year's budget is investing another \$60 million to deliver our commitment to Skilling Queenslanders for Work to support up to 8,000 Queenslanders to get the skills they need to get back into the workforce or into higher level training. I thank all of those partners in business, local government, training providers, the not-for-profit sector and employee organisations who have worked to deliver this important program.

The government also recognises that a strong public training provider is crucial to delivering the high-skilled workforce that Queensland needs for economic growth and to support expanding industries. This budget will continue to implement the government's Rescuing TAFE initiative, which is part of a \$34 million investment over three years to support the TAFE sector and to provide high-quality training for Queenslanders.

I am also pleased to be delivering the government's commitment for Jobs Queensland. Jobs Queensland has been established in the ICON building in Ipswich, which is a great outcome for Jobs Queensland. I know the members representing Ipswich—

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Kawana, you are warned under standing order 253A. I will be quite clear: I will not allow interjections during ministerial statements. Standing order 251 says that the minister speaking is not to be interrupted, except in certain circumstances. The member can refer to the standing orders if he wants to.

Mrs D'ATH: I know the members representing Ipswich have been very keen to see those positions based in Ipswich, as has the Premier.

A well-respected executive director-general, whom we poached from interstate, has already been recruited and work is already underway with her team. The interim reference group was established in January and has met monthly to help guide future skills priorities and a strategic outlook for future workforce planning. That group is comprised of representatives from a broad range of industries who possess the expertise needed for the critical functions of Jobs Queensland. The interim reference group includes representatives from CCIQ, the National Retailers Association and Tourism Queensland along with employee and training representatives. We on this side of the House are committed to providing Queenslanders with the opportunities to upskill, to build careers and to play an integral part in the attraction and expansion of industries.