



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


**MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE**

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**National Skills Week**

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (9.58 am): This week we have been celebrating National Skills Week. National Skills Week, which commenced in 2011, is an annual event promoting Australia's vocational education and training, VET, system. It highlights the many achievements, contributions, career pathway opportunities and success stories from the VET sector. This year National Skills Week commenced on Monday, 29 August, with the Queensland launch on Wednesday, the 31st. Ms Sandra Gillanders, Hy-Performance Fluid Power's Chief Executive Officer and state winner of the small employer category at the 2015 Queensland Training Awards, spoke at the launch event.

The Queensland manufacturer and supplier of hydraulic and dry products to global mining industries also went on to do Queensland proud by being awarded the 2015 Australian Training Award for the small employer category. This is a great Queensland small business that cites the flexibility of the VET sector as essential for meeting its future business needs. This is just one of many Queensland training success stories that we will hear during the course of National Skills Week that the Queensland government is proud to support in 2016 with the theme 'New world, new vision, your future'.

This year's National Skills Week aims to challenge people to think about how much they know about vocational education and training, the progression opportunities and the rapidly changing job market. Its focus is to raise the status of VET through positive messaging about the skills, career pathways and the value of the sector to the economy. This aligns with the Queensland government's commitment to support Queenslanders to enter the workforce through targeted skills programs, such as Skilling Queenslanders for Work and sponsoring initiatives like National Skills Week.

The people of Queensland need to have faith in the training system. That is why we restored the Queensland Training Ombudsman, which students, employers, families and providers can turn to to ensure that the training being delivered in this state is of a high standard and providing positive outcomes. With the Queensland government's \$810.7 million investment in VET for the 2016-17 financial year, National Skills Week presents an opportunity to highlight the positive—all the good things that VET can mean to students, parents, employers and industry.

The VET sector nationwide has an opportunity to reform in a number of areas, such as ongoing funding arrangements, where a new National Partnership on Skills Reform is an urgent priority. As I have stated previously in this House this week, I urge the federal government to reach out to the states and commence a conversation around a new deal or, at the very minimum, a 12-month extension to the national arrangements. If we are to have a nationally consistent set of standards and funding arrangements, then the federal government needs to take some leadership on this issue and propose some ideas that can set the sector up for the coming years. The Palaszczuk government is proud of

the training and skills sector in this state, and National Skills Week is a great opportunity for us all to reflect on the great work of our public and private training providers and see the opportunities that training can provide.