



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


**MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE**

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Record of Proceedings, 8 August 2017

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Vocational Education and Training**

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (10.05 am): The Palaszczuk government recognises that the ability to access vocational education and training is vital for many Queenslanders to be able to enter the workforce. We also know that cost can be a barrier to Queenslanders accessing these services. There are a number of ways in which the provision of training is subsidised in Queensland, through both public and private providers. These are the Certificate 3 Guarantee, User Choice and Higher Level Skills programs. In 2017-18 it is forecast that in these three programs the Palaszczuk government will provide around \$460 million in subsidies to allow Queenslanders to access the training they need.

The Certificate 3 Guarantee is designed to ensure Queenslanders have access to a qualification at any point post school. This allows students to access heavily subsidised training in over 100 courses in more than 30 different industries. These subsidies are regularly reviewed to ensure they align with workforce demands. The User Choice program is where the costs of training an apprentice or trainee are subsidised to ensure it remains affordable and accessible for students and employees alike. More than 350 different qualifications are eligible to receive between 50 and 100 per cent subsidy to ensure a pipeline of qualified apprentices and trainees are going through training in this state. The Higher Level Skills program is also about ensuring that courses in the certificate IV, advanced diploma and diploma area are made affordable for students in the workplace or often as a transition to university. More than 60 qualifications in 20 different industries are subsidised under this program. Once again, these subsidies are regularly reviewed and new and emerging qualifications added, especially where an industry demonstrates a need to support a specific qualification. For those apprentices and trainees who need to travel more than 100 kilometres to access their training, there are travel and accommodation subsidies available to help support this cost. This recognises that there is a need for face-to-face training for apprentices, and this helps to soften the costs and assist in this often significant expense.

The subsidies on offer range from a few hundred dollars to more than \$50,000, depending on the course cost and the industry demand, so the incentive is there for Queenslanders to get involved in training at a reduced cost. I urge any Queenslanders who are thinking about undertaking training to visit the Queensland Skills Gateway and make sure they understand the process and choose the course that is right for them. The Palaszczuk government is proud to be providing opportunities for Queenslanders to access affordable training to help them get into jobs.