




Speech By
Hon. Yvette D'Ath

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

TAFE Queensland, Aviation Australia

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (2.24 pm): Today I rise to speak about an important initiative undertaken by the Palaszczuk government in the VET sector in Queensland. This measure is the acquisition by TAFE Queensland of the industry-leading training provider Aviation Australia. Aviation Australia was established by the Queensland government in 2001 to provide specialist training for the local and international aviation and aerospace industries through a range of pilot, cabin crew and aircraft maintenance engineering programs. This will allow the smaller team of Aviation Australia to do what it does so well, and that is to provide quality training in the aviation sector with job outcomes in a sector that we know will be vital for Queensland's future.

Thanks to the hard work of ministers such as Minister Jones, there has been a large increase of flights into Queensland and recent announcements such as those by Qantas in relation to the maintenance of the Dreamliners in Brisbane show the potential of the sector in Brisbane. This move will also allow Aviation Australia to use the networks, scale and contacts that TAFE Queensland possess across emerging markets such as South-East Asia, Latin America and others. Aviation Australia already has a strong presence in the Middle East and there are also opportunities to grow in that market. Aviation Australia is already a market leader domestically and this will enable that to continue, with students coming to study in Brisbane from right across the country as well as training delivery occurring at workplaces across the nation. TAFE Queensland has demonstrated that they have the capability and capacity to respond to changes in what can be a turbulent training market. This acquisition of Aviation Australia will allow TAFE to sustainably grow Aviation Australia in the coming years and create further career paths.

It is important to note that through this process Aviation Australia will continue to operate under their existing name and students will continue to be enrolled and managed through them. Given the expertise in the sector that Aviation Australia possesses, it is also entirely appropriate that Aviation Australia management will remain in place, reporting to the TAFE Queensland board and reporting to the Minister for Training and Skills. This move is a further sign of the Palaszczuk government's commitment to training and skills in Queensland. It is this government that is delivering certainty and stability in the aviation training sector into the future through this acquisition, which will allow TAFE Queensland and Aviation Australia to benefit Queenslanders in the years ahead.