



Speech By  
**Hon. Mark Furner**


**MEMBER FOR FERNY GROVE**

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Record of Proceedings, 31 October 2018

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Ferny Grove Electorate, Vocational Education and Training**

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries) (7.03 pm): I rise to report on the excellent work being done in my electorate of Ferny Grove in vocational education and training. The Brisbane North West Trade Training Centre, located in the grounds of Mitchelton State High School, was built by the federal Labor government in 2011 and is today being actively supported by the Palaszczuk state Labor government. Students from more than 20 high schools are accessing this facility and are receiving valuable real-world skills training in the automotive, electrical, engineering and health fields. They are students from both the government and private school systems and come from as far away as Craigslea, Kelvin Grove, Marist College, Ashgrove, the aviation college and even Loganlea.

Trade training for high school students is essential to provide the necessary skills to build our economy and drive innovation in the 21st century. Trade training centres have now been incorporated smoothly into the state school system to play an important role in meeting this need. I think it is well recognised these days that university is not for everyone and that hands-on training can be crucial to creating a career path that will lead to a well-paying job. Trade training centres providing VET courses as part of high school help to prepare young people for precisely this type of career. We know that a relentless focus on university-only education leads to early school dropouts and poor employment results. I refer to a 2012 Deloitte Access Economics report which observed that early school leavers who study VET in schools are more likely to experience good transitions into further study and work than early school leavers who do not study VET in schools.

Labor governments have always led the way in advocating for trade training and good jobs in trade industries. I am proud that the Palaszczuk government is continuing this tradition. We understand that theory, while important, is not enough to get the job done. Recently I was lucky enough to be shown around the North West Trade Training Centre by manager Luke Cahill and school principal John Searle. The facility is excellent and the equipment is industry standard. The automotive shop alone is one in which I am sure many members in this House would love to spend a weekend tinkering away. A highlight for me was meeting the students in both the health and automotive streams. They were enthusiastic kids who were clearly thriving in an environment where they can learn practical skills which could lead to a future career. I am proud the Palaszczuk Labor government is continuing to support the trade training centres in Mitchelton when at the same time the Abbott, Turnbull and Morrison governments have not added one cent beyond what the last federal Labor government invested in this project.