



Speech By  
**Hon. Shannon Fentiman**

**MEMBER FOR WATERFORD**

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Record of Proceedings, 21 March 2018

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, TAFE**

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (9.58 am): The Palaszczuk Labor government understands the importance of securing quality industry experience for Queenslanders in training. The upcoming Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast presents a golden opportunity to put training into practice. The games will open doors for 15,000 TAFE trained volunteers to gain real-life work experience in a fast paced environment alongside industry professionals.

Earlier this month I visited the hospitality students at Marsden State High School in my local electorate. Members may have heard them on ABC Brisbane Radio this morning proudly talking about their Commonwealth Games involvement.

Students across Logan were invited to a recruitment session where more than 50 students from years 11 and 12 were selected to be part of the catering team for the Commonwealth Games. That included 40 students from Marsden State High School. I spoke with hospitality student Jasmyne, who said she hoped that this 'once-in-a-lifetime opportunity' would give her a head start to a career in the thriving hospitality and tourism industry once she finishes school.

TAFE Queensland's partnership with the Commonwealth Games is shining a light on the talent that our state has to offer. One of those creative talents comes from the Nambour TAFE campus. Graphic design student Hazem is the mastermind behind the wooden cube seating that will be featured in the athletes village. Each seat was designed by Hazem and she incorporated the colours of each country that will be competing in the games.

Training and upskilling Queenslanders is also vital to making sure we can continue to have the largest jobs growth in the country. Members may not be aware that we have 64 beauty students and teachers running one of the most popular Commonwealth Games outlets, Salon XXI. The salon was designed and created by two talented TAFE Gold Coast students. It will give students and teachers the opportunity to apply their knowledge by providing beauty services to athletes, coaches and officials. This is the Commonwealth Games offering real-life work experience.

After the games have finished, a Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games legacy project will provide a training program for almost 300 of the volunteers, creating a pathway to earning a nationally recognised training qualification. That legacy will boost employment opportunities and upskill Queenslanders. The Palaszczuk government is all about making sure Queenslanders have the skills they need to fill the jobs of the future, and that is what the Commonwealth Games will do.