



Speech By  
**Hon. Shannon Fentiman**


**MEMBER FOR WATERFORD**

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Record of Proceedings, 22 March 2018

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS**

**Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, TAFE**

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (9.54 am): As we have heard, the Commonwealth Games are fast approaching, but it could not happen without the support of the 15,000-strong TAFE volunteers. These volunteers were selected from more than 47,000 applications. They are aged from 16 to 91. These volunteers will be the heart and soul of the games, receiving real-life work experience. Leading up to the games, in total 360,000 hours of volunteer training was conducted by TAFE. This is a huge accomplishment and I acknowledge all of the staff and trainers at TAFE for their tremendous efforts. This training was needed for the roughly one million volunteer hours required of them during the 11 days of competition.

Shortly after the Commonwealth Games TAFE will be providing further support to almost 300 volunteers through its legacy project. TAFE Queensland want to make sure that the skills and experience gained by volunteers are put to good use. Through the legacy project TAFE will provide eligible volunteers the opportunity to have their experience counted towards a nationally recognised qualification and access to job search support, whether it be a diploma of project management, a certificate III in hospitality or a certificate III in catering operations. In providing volunteers with the opportunity to upskill or change into a new exciting career, this legacy will further boost employment opportunities for Queenslanders.

I also want to mention the outstanding TAFE students whose artwork is on display in the Commonwealth Games main media centre. Original artworks from 13 TAFE Queensland students will be on display to the world press. The artworks have been created by graphic design students from across Queensland: two TAFE students from North Queensland, two students from Nambour TAFE and nine students from the TAFE Queensland Coomera campus.

Furthermore, 2017 Outstanding Student of the Year and winner of the Gold Coast City Council's Student Design Award, Odin Lowsley, has had his artwork expanded to billboard size and unveiled on the Sundale Bridge in Southport. Odin graduated from TAFE Queensland's Diploma of Graphic Design when he was only 16 years of age and has now secured a place in a double degree in graphic design and marketing. I congratulate Odin and the other students on this amazing achievement, and I urge anyone who has the opportunity to go and check out Odin's artwork on the Sundale Bridge in Southport.

TAFE, in partnership with the Commonwealth Games, is showcasing the best and brightest Queensland has to offer. That is why the Palaszczuk government at the last election committed \$15 million to establish a TAFE legacy on the Gold Coast post Commonwealth Games. I end by acknowledging all of the hard work done by each of the 15,000 volunteers and I hope they enjoy every minute of what will be an amazing Commonwealth Games.