




Speech By
Hon. Shannon Fentiman

MEMBER FOR WATERFORD

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

TAFE Queensland, Investment

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (9.51 am): A strong vocational education and training sector is vital if we are to respond to the skills needs of the future, and TAFE Queensland is the premier provider in Queensland, thanks to the actions of the Palaszczuk government. The Palaszczuk government has delivered on our commitment to rescuing TAFE. We are now building on that success by investing in state-of-the-art equipment and facilities across Queensland, providing Queenslanders with the high-quality skills that industry requires.

Last week I announced over \$1 million in investment towards upgrading engineering facilities at the Ashmore TAFE campus on the Gold Coast. Stage 1 is already underway and students will soon have access to state-of-the-art welding bays. Stage 2 will include new welders, LED lighting, 3D printers and even more upgraded equipment. Our investment means that this TAFE will soon be able to offer advanced trade classes that will benefit not only engineering students but also those studying electrical, plumbing and welding.

At TAFE's South Bank campus, I recently announced the Palaszczuk government will support world-class culinary and patisserie training through an investment of \$3.7 million towards a new state-of-the-art commercial kitchen as part of our exciting new partnership with world renowned cooking school Le Cordon Bleu. Providing superior training facilities for our future master chefs will drive our hospitality industry to the next level.

In Townsville the Palaszczuk government recently spent \$1.6 million upgrading the Pimlico TAFE campus. The newly refurbished space has been created to increase student amenities to study, research and be part of the wonderful culture at the Pimlico campus. The \$1.6 million project included the demolition and complete refit of two levels of D Block, refurbishment of the resource centre and construction of two new lecture theatres. This funding is on top of the Palaszczuk Labor government's election commitment, providing \$85 million towards upgrading TAFE campuses across Queensland.

At a time of funding cuts and uncertainty at the federal level, the Palaszczuk government is passionate about making sure that Queenslanders have the training and skills they need to build a career. We want TAFE to be the premium provider of training in this state. Through investments like these, our government will ensure that TAFE facilities are modern, fit-for-purpose and flexible, delivering world-class training for Queenslanders.