



Speech By  
**Hon. Shannon Fentiman**


**MEMBER FOR WATERFORD**

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS**

**National Skills Week**

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (10.08 am): National Skills Week is fast approaching and will kick off next Monday. The theme for the 2018 National Skills Week is 'Real skills for real careers'. In Queensland, the Palaszczuk government is investing more than \$770 million to support Queenslanders undertake training to pursue their career goals. This is real investment leading to real careers and stands in stark contrast to the real cuts inflicted on training by the Turnbull government and the very real cuts the member for Nanango wanted to make at the last election.

As part of our increased investment, we are delivering an additional \$180 million over three years to boost our successful job readiness program, Skilling Queenslanders for Work. The Skilling Queenslanders for Work program provides support to Queenslanders in need so they can get job-ready skills to find a job. We know that Skilling Queenslanders for Work is delivering real outcomes. A recent survey of participants who completed the program in 2016 has highlighted the real and lasting benefits of training. The results of that survey show that more than 73 per cent of participants who completed Skilling Queenslanders for Work are now employed or engaged in further study. These are real skills leading to real careers.

Last week I had the privilege to attend a local graduation event for eight Logan women who, through a Skilling Queenslanders for Work project run by YFS, earned a Certificate I in Business. All of these young women now have skills and job-ready confidence in administration, social media and marketing that will be invaluable to them for the rest of their working lives. YFS and its social enterprise Substation33 were joined by other local groups who support the project including yourtown, Logan Together, Kingston East Neighbourhood Centre, ADRA and Karakan to host these young women throughout the training program.

Britney was just one participant I had the pleasure of meeting at the graduation with her young son. Britney had already impressed the staff at YFS with her enthusiasm, but it was Britney who said that Skilling Queenslanders for Work had helped build her confidence to attend job interviews and take on a traineeship. The staff at YFS told the manager not to get too comfortable in her seat because in a few years time Britney would be coming for her job, such was her enthusiasm.

Here in Queensland we are showcasing the very best of what National Skills Week promotes. The Palaszczuk government is a proud supporter of National Skills Week and of vocational education and training here in Queensland.