




Speech By
Hon. Shannon Fentiman

MEMBER FOR WATERFORD

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ADJOURNMENT

Waterford Electorate, Skilling Queenslanders for Work

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (7.01 pm): I rise tonight to draw to the attention of the House some fantastic work of the Palaszczuk government. We are working hard to upskill and re-skill people in my local community of Waterford. Last month I had the opportunity to attend a Skilling Queenslanders for Work graduation industry lunch hosted by an amazing local community organisation YFS. The event was a celebration of an incredible group of women who, through YFS, Substation33 and other wonderful community partners, have gained a Certificate I in Business. It was also an opportunity for these new graduates to network with industry representatives to help them build new meaningful careers.

One of the women I met was Britney Bygrave, a young mum of two kids who has been completing her traineeship at YFS. In talking to Britney I could not help but be inspired by her enthusiasm and work ethic. As a young mum, Britney struggled to find work until she joined YFS. They immediately spotted her potential. With the help of the program, Britney is now empowered and moving forward to bigger and better things. In fact, Tony at Substation33, who is part of the YFS family, told the CEO of YFS, Cath, that she better watch out because he is pretty sure Britney will be coming for her job in maybe five or six years time.

Congratulations to Britney, Whitney, Lucinda, Dulani, Naomi, Megan, Katie and Maria who all completed their traineeship. When you meet these women, you cannot doubt the transformative power of this fantastic program. I am very proud that the Palaszczuk government reinstated this program and is delivering on its commitment to extend the program and increase funding by \$180 million.

Through Skilling Queenslanders for Work we have assisted over 3,000 people in Logan, with 1,763 gaining employment because of the program and a further 500 going on to training. On Friday I attended Paddock to Plate at Beenleigh State High School with the member for Macalister and launched our new Free TAFE campaign. Beenleigh State High School is doing fantastic work with students to give them hands-on experience in the hospitality industry and partner with wonderful ambassadors like chef Matt Golinski. In speaking with Beenleigh High student Marshall Kearns, I could see the importance of the program and the impact it will have on his life. Without the Free TAFE program, Marshall would not have been able to afford to attend TAFE and turn his love of cooking into a career.

We know that investing in training and skills is vital to grow our economy and prepare young people for jobs now and into the future. As the member for Waterford, it is fantastic to see firsthand the impact that these programs are having on members on our Logan community.