




Speech By
Hon. Shannon Fentiman

MEMBER FOR WATERFORD

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Skills for Queensland

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (10.27 am): Today I am proudly launching 'Skills for Queensland' a discussion paper about vocational education and training in Queensland. I table a copy of that for the House.

Tabled paper: Document, undated, titled 'Skills for Queensland—Discussion Paper', Department of Employment, Small Business and Training [[1362](#)].

We want to make sure that our vocational education and training system is accessible, affordable, high quality and, importantly, meets the needs of industry now and into the future. In order to make sure that the Palaszczuk government is getting our investment right, this discussion paper seeks feedback from TAFE Queensland, registered training organisations, group training organisations, unions, industry associations, businesses, families, trainees and apprentices.

In 2018-19 the Palaszczuk government is investing \$777.9 million in a range of programs in vocational education and training which support people in accessing training and skills. Those programs include the further investment in Skilling Queenslanders for Work and free TAFE for year 12 graduates.

We know that our programs work: 83.1 per cent of our school students who undertook a VET program while at school transitioned to further education, training or paid employment and more than 80 per cent of Certificate 3 Guarantee graduates have transitioned to work or further training. However, with the emergence of new industries and as technology advances and changes our training system, the way in which people are being trained and the content of that training must adapt, be flexible and responsive.

The discussion paper allows stakeholders to engage around how we can do that best. I want our providers of vocational education and training in Queensland to be properly supported to ensure that our next generation of apprentices and trainees, no matter where they live in Queensland, can access an affordable and high-quality vocational education.

Industry and business have told our government that our training system must support the skills of the future, and that is why last week our Premier announced that later this year she will convene a skills summit. This summit will give us the opportunity to hear from industry and employee representatives in both traditional and emerging industries about the link between the skills that those industries will need now and in the future.

I encourage anyone who has an interest in the vocational education and training sector in Queensland to engage with the consultation being conducted through my department or to provide a written submission through the Skills for Queensland website.