




Speech By
Hon. Shannon Fentiman

MEMBER FOR WATERFORD

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Cybersecurity

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (10.13 am): Last week students from TAFE Queensland participated in one of the world's largest hacker conventions at this year's Cyber Security Challenge. One of its kind in Australia, the cybersecurity hacking competition is organised by an alliance of government, businesses and academic professionals committed to finding the next generation of Australian cybersecurity talent and I was pleased to see that this year's competition had a strong focus on women in cybersecurity, offering a mentoring program to all female competitors to encourage greater participation in the industry.

The 2018 event showcased the growth in the industry. We saw not only an increase in students registered to compete but also a massive 450 per cent increase in TAFE student participation. I am pleased to report that Queensland TAFE students were the highest-scoring TAFE students in Australia. This is an incredible result, especially as the team comprised students who have only just started their certificate IV in cybersecurity. Working in close collaboration with industry partners, TAFE started offering a certificate IV in cybersecurity on 1 July this year at its Coomera campus. From early next year, due to increased demand the course will also be offered at the South Bank campus. The first intake took in 15 students for a 12-month period in partnership with local organisations such as the City of Gold Coast, Australian Computer Society and a network of businesses on the Gold Coast. These students have an incredibly exciting career ahead of them. Cybersecurity is a skill in big demand by Queensland businesses big and small.

Australia's Cyber Security Sector Competitiveness Plan estimates that Australian businesses will need at least 11,000 additional cybersecurity workers over the next decade. TAFE Queensland saw the need for training in cybersecurity and our government listened, providing a subsidy close to \$5,000 through our higher skills program for students to participate. The global cybersecurity industry is expanding rapidly and I am so proud that TAFE Queensland is playing its part to fill the skills gap and provide critical training so Queenslanders can compete for the jobs of the future.