



Speech By  
**Hon. Shannon Fentiman**


**MEMBER FOR WATERFORD**

---

Record of Proceedings, 1 November 2018

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Vocational Education and Training, Industry Skills Summit**

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (9.47 am): The Palaszczuk government is committed to investing in the skills of Queenslanders to make sure that they are ready for the jobs of the future. Although traditional trades will remain vital to our economy in Queensland, we also know that changes in technology are going to make those jobs even more advanced. The pace of change will require Queenslanders to have ready access to training that will allow them to upskill and reskill across their working life. To keep up and to keep our workforce productive will require the cooperation of all levels of government, training providers and industry alike. That is why the skills summit announced by the Premier this morning is so critical.

Queensland is not approaching this challenge from a standing start. We are already investing in skills for the future through free TAFE, giving our high school leavers access to 160 qualifications in high-priority industries to make sure that the next generation is prepared with the skills needed in priority areas. We are investing in TAFE Queensland with \$85 million in capital renewal of priority campuses to upgrade and modernise our training facilities. Thanks to Back to Work, Skilling Queenslanders for Work, payroll tax rebates and WorkCover incentives, Queensland is leading the nation in new apprenticeship and traineeship commencements. We are investing in industry based and regionally based workforce plans to steer investment and engagement at the local level through Jobs Queensland.

We know that vocational education and training will need to adapt to remain relevant and responsive to changing workplace and industry needs. The *Skills for Queensland* discussion paper, which I released earlier this year, is engaging with training providers, business, industry and, importantly, the community to identify ways that we can make our training system even better. As I said, we need cooperation across all levels of government and that includes the Commonwealth. Today, the National Centre for Vocational Education Research is releasing its *Financial information 2017* report, which outlines government investment in the sector. The report shows that Queensland has increased its overall expenditure effort on vocational education and training by 4.5 per cent while at the same time the Australian government decreased it by 22.2 per cent.

Queensland has the runs on the board, but we are always looking to do more. The Skills Summit is a fantastic opportunity to hear directly from employers, trainers and community leaders about how we can all work together to build on the success of our training system to make it even better.