



Speech By  
**Hon. Shannon Fentiman**


**MEMBER FOR WATERFORD**

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Record of Proceedings, 13 February 2019

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**TAFE, Nursing Subsidy**

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (10.03 am): I am pleased to inform the House that almost 5,000 students have commenced their training for free since we kicked off the free TAFE campaign in August last year, and enrolments for this year are still open. Young Queenslanders want opportunities to get the training and skills to get a job and build a career, and that is what free TAFE is providing. We are making training free so that all Queenslanders will have the opportunity to get the skills and training they need to fill the jobs of the future. Removing barriers such as the cost of courses can make a huge difference for people who are looking to gain skills for their dream career. That is why we have doubled the subsidy for the deployment of nursing to make it \$4,000 cheaper for eligible students to gain this valuable qualification. I am pleased to report that our investment in training in our state's fastest growing industry is delivering results. Since doubling the subsidy available for the deployment of nursing we have seen a 37 per cent jump in enrolments compared to this time last year.

The rise in student numbers is certainly welcome news. We know that the Jobs Queensland Anticipating Future Skills report showed that health care and social assistance were the top industries predicted to grow. Already employment demand for enrolled nurses is strong, and it will only continue to increase with our ageing population. We want to make sure that Queensland has the right people with the right skills to meet our workforce demands. That is why the Premier hosted the Future of Work—Skills and Industry Summit last November to bring together industry, small business, the training sector and heads of government so we can continue to work together to grow our economy and jobs for Queenslanders. I am proud to be part of a government that supports young Queenslanders with initiatives like free TAFE and more affordable training.