




Speech By
Hon. Shannon Fentiman

MEMBER FOR WATERFORD

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Budget, TAFE Queensland

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (9.59 am): Today is National TAFE Day and campuses across our state are celebrating the fantastic contribution TAFEs make to training Queenslanders for the jobs of the future. TAFE is the largest provider of education and training in Queensland, delivering training to over 120,000 students. This is only possible because of our incredible, hardworking TAFE teachers who are shaping the futures of so many of our young Queenslanders. It is great to see that more and more young Queenslanders are now gaining skills and training they need for an exciting career for free. There are now over 6,000 year 12 graduates enrolled under our popular free TAFE initiative, gaining a qualification in industries where we know there will be future jobs such as health care, hospitality and engineering.

The Palaszczuk government is very proudly pro TAFE, and we are committed to rebuilding campuses across Queensland. That is why it is fantastic to see in this week's budget that we are doubling our investment in TAFE campuses by investing more than \$105 million to provide state-of-the-art training facilities right across our state. When we were elected in 2015, TAFE campuses were left in a pretty concerning state with a severe maintenance backlog, all ready to be sold off. I am pleased to report a construction blitz of Queensland's TAFE campuses from Thursday Island to the Gold Coast. On the Gold Coast alone, we will be investing \$30 million, doubling our previous \$15 million election commitment. This will include constructing a new trades building at Ashmore and a brand-new nursing facility at Southport to cater for our continued growth on the Gold Coast.

In the electorate of Mansfield, \$15 million will be invested to revitalise the Mount Gravatt campus, creating Queensland's first vocational education design tech precinct, specialising in creative arts, fashion and design to rival the very best in Australia. Our Alexandra Hills campus in Redlands is set for a more than \$10 million upgrade to its trades and health facilities. This will mean students can complete their full apprenticeship locally rather than having to travel to the other side of Brisbane. I am pleased to report that at the end of this year works will be complete in Townsville and Toowoomba on the \$35 million redevelopment at the Pimlico centre and the new Toowoomba Rural Centre of Excellence.

Members on this side of the House understand the value of investing in TAFE. By continuing to build and upgrade our campuses, we are making sure that Queenslanders have access to state-of-the-art facilities to gain the skills they need for the jobs of the future.