




Speech By
Hon. Shannon Fentiman

MEMBER FOR WATERFORD

Record of Proceedings, 20 August 2019

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Skills for Queensland Strategy, Free Apprenticeships

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (10.05 am): Earlier this month it was fantastic to have the Premier and the education minister, Grace Grace, at Marsden State High School to launch our Skills for Queensland strategy and announce free apprenticeships for those aged under 21. I am so proud that our government is backing Queensland businesses to grow and create more jobs. Our \$32 million investment will support local businesses to take on around 60,000 apprentices and trainees—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I will wait for the House to come to order.

Ms FENTIMAN: There will be 60,000 apprentices and trainees across 139—

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Broadwater, you are warned under the standing orders. I have just called the House to order.

Ms FENTIMAN: Third time lucky, Mr Speaker. There will be 60,000 apprentices and trainees getting their qualifications for free. This will open up more opportunities for young Queenslanders to get the skills and training they need to fill the jobs of the future. At the launch of our free apprenticeships, Dan Petrie from CCIQ welcomed the package saying, 'For small business it removes a burden of paying for training.' As the Premier said, free apprenticeships can represent a saving of up to \$3,000 for employers.

These apprenticeships are also leading to exciting and rewarding careers in electrical, plumbing and engineering, as well as non-trade areas like health care and hospitality. These are the skills we know industry needs. Maurice Swan from the Australian Industry Group said that this is a great step towards a more highly skilled workforce. It is not just industry and our small businesses excited about these apprenticeships. Young Queenslanders and their families have the most to benefit. Last Friday I met 16-year-old Bailey, an automotive spray-painting apprentice from Bayer Smash Repairs in Loganholme. Bailey was learning his trade and setting himself up with skills for a rewarding career. He is just one of the many young Queenslanders now benefiting from this initiative.

We know that the VET sector currently provides training for nine out of the 10 jobs predicted to grow the most, and our free apprenticeships is all part of our skills strategy that outlines a clear plan to make sure Queenslanders can fill those jobs. We are absolutely committed to backing businesses to grow and to put on more apprentices and trainees. This is great news for Queensland businesses and for young Queenslanders.