



Speech By  
**Hon. Shannon Fentiman**


**MEMBER FOR WATERFORD**

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Record of Proceedings, 17 October 2019

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Apprentices and Trainees**

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (9.44 am): Last night we had the opportunity to roll out the red carpet for our apprentice and trainee of the year at our first apprentice and industry parliamentary reception. Carpentry apprentice Ellie Farrington from Toowoomba finished high school with the grades that allowed her to choose almost any university course she wanted. After starting out studying architecture and then finishing with a Bachelor of Mathematics, Ellie still was not sure this was the right path for her.

Ellie has now been awarded Queensland's Apprentice of the Year after finding her passion in carpentry. She is breaking down barriers and giving back to other young apprentices by mentoring them in their first years. She is a strong advocate for promoting apprenticeships as equal to university as a pathway to a successful career. The skills people learn through an apprenticeship are real life skills with on-the-job training.

Our Trainee of the Year, Aman, is an exceptional achiever and last night he shared his incredible journey with us. In 2006, Aman arrived from north-east Africa but struggled initially in his new country and at school. After falling in with the wrong crowd, he spent time in juvenile detention. Aman found his way to the Queensland government's pilot program Transition 2 Success where he completed year 12 equivalent qualifications and certificates in literacy, numeracy and business. Aman has now gone on to complete a Certificate III in Community Services, is finishing a Diploma of Youth Work while being employed full-time with the Department of Youth Justice. Vocational education and training has been life changing for Aman and he now wants to help other young people as a youth worker.

It is stories like Ellie's and Aman's that drive the message about why investment in training and skills is critical. Last year we introduced free TAFE for year 12 graduates and this year we have built on that with our free apprenticeships and traineeships for under 21s. That is 60,000 young Queenslanders who are getting the skills they need for the jobs of the future. This will back local businesses by removing the training cost. They will be able to take on more apprentices and trainees—not only providing more skilled workers but creating more local jobs.

There are 139 qualifications on offer in traditional trades such as electrical, plumbing and carpentry, as well as in growing industries such as aviation, health care and hospitality. The Palaszczuk government is investing in the future of young Queenslanders and we look forward to seeing many more apprentices and trainees like Ellie and Aman.