




Speech By
Hon. Shannon Fentiman

MEMBER FOR WATERFORD

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

TAFE and Training

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (10.06 am): TAFE and training is going from strength to strength right across Queensland. The Palaszczuk government is committed to providing every opportunity for someone to gain the skills they need to get a job. We have 900,000 VET students in Queensland and half of the nation's school based apprentices and trainees. Whether it is reducing the course cost, or making it easier for a business to put on an apprentice, members on this side of the House know that their government is committed to ensuring we have a local skilled workforce. Already our free TAFE for year 12 graduates and free apprenticeships for under 21s are changing the lives of almost 15,000 young Queenslanders—Queenslanders like Skylar, who I met at the Mount Isa TAFE campus. She is a third-year welding apprentice and is loving her job at Wrights Welding, which is one of the thousands of businesses that we are assisting by removing the training cost to take on an apprentice or a trainee.

We want all Queenslanders like Skylar to be able to access world-class training and TAFE is helping us do that with its mobile trade training vans. These specialised and kitted out vans bring training to thousands of apprentices employed by hundreds of different employers in many different industries. They provide workplace based training and assessment for apprentices, making things even easier for business. These vehicles are providing the best in training for employers, such as Origin Energy, Volvo, Isuzu and regional councils just to name a few. The skills people learn through an apprenticeship are real life skills. It is important that everyone can have the opportunity to receive on-the-job training.

Today I am pleased to announce that we will have some of these mobile TAFE training vans here at Parliament House. There will be six vehicles to showcase some of the trades on offer for our young Queenslanders such as automotive, plumbing, heavy vehicle as well as a mobile classroom.

This initiative is all part of listening to the needs of industry right across this state and providing more options for business. These training vans will help provide training to more apprentices and trainees. I encourage all members of the House to come out and meet some of our young apprentices and TAFE teachers today at 1 pm. The Palaszczuk government is investing in the future of young Queenslanders. We look forward to seeing these vans in a suburb near you.