




Speech By
Ann Leahy

MEMBER FOR WARREGO

Record of Proceedings, 1 September 2022

MOTION

Jobs, Skills and Training

 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (12.55 pm): It is no wonder we have a skilled worker and labour shortage across every sector and in every region across Queensland when we look back at this Labor state government's terrible record when it comes to skills and training. They have a shocking record on skills and training. Suddenly after seven years this government has woken up that there is a skills crisis. There was a skills crisis in hospitality in my region seven years ago. It was only after their mates in Canberra called a jobs summit that this Labor government said, 'Oops, we had better have something to take to this.' Out came the glossy brochures.

Between 2017 and 2021 there were more cancellations and withdrawals from Queensland apprenticeships and traineeships than actual completions. Let me remind members that this was before COVID changed the world so the Minister for Training and Skills Development can stop blaming the pandemic. All this government talks about is those who have commenced an apprenticeship or traineeship. They do not talk about the numbers who have completed them. Unless we have completions we do not have qualified tradespeople. It is about the outcome—something that this government fails again and again to deliver on. Labor is failing these people, particularly young people, who want to get a trade because they do not support them through their training.

Who can forget the unions that were so opposed to the agriculture visa that they went doorknocking the embassies in Canberra telling the diplomats to tell their countries to not support the agriculture visa. They went and doorknocked in Canberra. The regions are crying out for people to fill jobs in the agricultural industry. They are crying out for people to pick strawberries and grapes. In my region, we have some of the largest grape producing areas around St George. The unions do not want people to fill jobs in the horticulture industry or in the agriculture industry.

What do we know about this government's record on skills and training in the agriculture industry? They closed the Longreach Pastoral College. The agriculture minister thought it was a great photo opportunity to stand in front of the locked gates at the Longreach agriculture college. Maybe he should have hired the image photographer of the Deputy Premier and they might have picked a better look. He could not have picked a worse photo in Longreach.

Then we had this government knocking the confidence out of businesses. Businesses are the ones that employ people and take on apprentices and trainees. They have had a tax a year. There are new taxes and charges. There is land tax and then there is the resource mining tax. Since this government has come to power they have brought in new or increased taxes or charges every year. They have broken promises. It is the incompetence of this government that has left us with a skills deficits.

(Time expired)