



Speech By  
**Brent Mickelberg**


**MEMBER FOR BUDERIM**

---

Record of Proceedings, 1 September 2022

**MOTION**

**Jobs, Skills and Training**

 **Mr MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (12.24 pm): It is no wonder we have a skilled worker and labour shortage across every sector and every region of Queensland when one looks at this Labor government's terrible record when it comes to skills and training. Between 2017 and 2022 there were more cancellations and withdrawals from Queensland apprenticeships and traineeships than there were completions. In the five years before we knew what COVID was, the state government delivered 10,200 fewer apprenticeship completions than their own target. They have missed their own target every single year they have been in government. Over those seven years, if they had met their target there would be another 14,400 trained tradies in Queensland. Imagine what that could do for Queenslanders who are struggling to get a tradie right now.

We know how tough the construction industry is doing in Queensland due to the skilled worker shortage created by this government. The building of new homes in Queensland has been delayed, and it continues to be delayed, and it is Queensland families and builders who are paying the price. Between 2017 and 2020, 3,880 people cancelled their construction apprenticeship. That is more than completed their construction apprenticeship.

Master Builders say that a lack of qualified tradespeople is widespread, with carpenters, roofers, concreters and bricklayers just some of the skilled workers who are in short supply. With the severe shortage of supplies that exist and the shortage of skilled tradies, it is Queenslanders who are paying the price because of this Palaszczuk Labor government's failure when it comes to skills and training. They like to blame others, but the reality is they have not met their own target once—not once. If we look at the food industry—we know they are struggling to fill shifts and positions across the state—1,685 people did not complete their food training and more pulled out than finished it. I could go on and on.

This government likes to focus on the announcement. It is all about the commencements, but they forget about the completions. It is the completions that matter. You can spend as much money on a training and skills system as you want, but if it is not delivering, if people are not completing, then it is failing. It is failing under this Palaszczuk Labor government. The reality is Queensland is failing when it comes to skills and training. Queensland is one of the worst performing states in the country when it comes to apprenticeships and traineeships. Those opposite like to talk about commencements, but you will not hear the Minister for Training and Skills Development talking about completions because she knows that Queensland is failing.