




Speech By
Corrine McMillan

MEMBER FOR MANSFIELD

Record of Proceedings, 1 September 2022

MOTION

Jobs, Skills and Training

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (12.27 pm): I rise to support the motion moved by the Deputy Premier. The world of work is changing. New industries and new technologies require new skills and new knowledge. The federal Labor government and the Palaszczuk government understand that the need to upskill and reskill the workforce has never been more urgent. The discrepancy between the skills people have and those needed for jobs in the new world is one of the most critical problems of our time. Thanks to the Palaszczuk government and our response to the COVID-19 pandemic, unemployment is low. In many developed economies, and in particular in developing economies, it is simply not possible to recruit enough skilled people to fill the available jobs. Society cannot afford the divide between rich and poor to widen any further. We know one in three jobs is likely to be severely disrupted or to disappear in the next decade because of technological change. This disruption could affect almost half of all those skilled jobs and one third of semi-skilled jobs. The World Economic Forum estimates that upskilling 1.37 million workers in the US will cost \$34 billion, or \$24,800 per person.

Thanks to our government's understanding of global macroeconomics, the range of expertise of our caucus, the foresight of our minister and our regular and meaningful team meetings, Queensland was the first state to develop a specific plan to address these shortages by focusing on a school-to-work transition plan, local solutions, workforce participation, industry-led initiatives and a strong focus on upskilling. Our 10-year plan will help support all Queenslanders to get the jobs they want and help businesses attract the staff that they need.

In very clear contrast, the LNP government slashed \$288 million in employment programs, including Skilling Queenslanders for Work in 2012 despite an independent Deloitte report that showed an economic return of nearly \$8 for every dollar invested over a 10-year period. They tried to decimate our TAFE system, slashing funding by \$170 million, closing five campuses and planning to close 38 more, and sacking 2,100 TAFE staff. For the record, the LNP cuts resulted in 4,700 people in my community losing their jobs. The LNP could never conjure up a vision for TAFE. They tried to sell the Mount Gravatt TAFE in my community. In contrast, since I was elected in 2017 the Palaszczuk government has invested over \$15 million in developing the Mount Gravatt TAFE campus.

Preparing the workforce of the future will require millions of dollars but the cost of inaction will be even higher. The Palaszczuk Labor government is committed to that investment and to delivering world-class education and training programs to ensure Queenslanders are afforded the great lifestyle that job security brings.