




Speech By
Hon. Dr Steven Miles

MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Jobs and Skills Summit

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics Infrastructure) (10.14 am): One of the hallmarks of the change of government in Canberra has been a better working relationship with the states. Our government has always been willing to work with whoever was in power federally, but that has not always been reciprocated. However, under Anthony Albanese there has been a marked change, with a shared commitment to important issues. The national Jobs and Skills Summit being attended by the Premier today is a great example.

With a consultative and inclusive approach, we can expect positive outcomes. We know that because there was a positive mood in yesterday's meeting of National Cabinet. National Cabinet made a commitment towards a national skills agreement. They acknowledged the importance of early childhood education and care in boosting the participation of women in the workforce and committed to creating regional job opportunities from the acceleration of energy projects on the way to a net zero emissions economy. They also made important changes to COVID restrictions, including reducing the isolation period from seven days to five days, starting from the end of next week, and removing the requirement for masks on domestic flights.

The harmony at National Cabinet is a good sign for the Jobs and Skills Summit. I welcome the billion dollar training blitz that Prime Minister Albanese has just announced. The Commonwealth, states and territories will create 180,000 free TAFE places for 2023—a \$1.1 billion investment in Australians. This week our government has demonstrated our commitment to ensuring the skills and capabilities of our workforce. The centrepiece is our \$74 million Queensland Workforce Strategy, which includes: \$20 million to recruit under-represented workers; \$7 million to extend the group training organisation pre-apprenticeship program; \$5.6 million to employ migrants and international students; \$5.45 million to expand that to the regions; and \$4.6 million to expand our Gateway to Industry Schools program. This week we also announced the extension of the free TAFE and apprenticeships program for under-25s until next year.

In Canberra today, representing our state, the Premier will inform the summit about our strategy and the work we have done. She will work with federal, state and territory counterparts, employers, unions and other summit attendees to address skills shortages and get the right skills mix from training and migration. The Premier will work with her counterparts to boost productivity and deliver secure, well-paid jobs and strong and sustainable wages growth—all while keeping unemployment low.

The Prime Minister has also made it clear that he shares the Palaszczuk government's commitment to furthering women's economic security. I know that the summit will not miss the opportunity to further equal opportunities and pay for women. This is important, productive work by state and federal representatives with a shared commitment to good jobs, better services and a great lifestyle.