




Speech By
Hon. Dr Steven Miles
MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA

Record of Proceedings, 1 September 2022

MOTION

Jobs, Skills and Training

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics Infrastructure) (12.01 pm): I move—

That this House:

1. notes the Palaszczuk government's record of supporting the creation of more than 466,000 Queensland jobs since 2015;
2. notes the opportunity to work cooperatively with the federal Albanese Labor government at the national Jobs and Skills Summit being held in Canberra today;
3. notes the former Newman LNP government's attacks on training and skills, including:
 - (a) slashing \$288 million in employment programs including Skilling Queenslanders for Work;
 - (b) tearing apart our TAFE system, including cutting funding by \$170 million, cutting more than 2,000 TAFE and training jobs and attempting to sell-off 15 TAFE campuses; and
4. endorses the Palaszczuk government's *Good people good jobs: Queensland Workforce Strategy 2022-2032*.

The global pandemic has highlighted the importance of sovereign capabilities. In Australia and in Queensland, it highlighted the challenges of our reliance on overseas migration and on foreign skilled labour. The Palaszczuk government has supported the creation of more than 466,000 Queensland jobs since 2015. Now we are investing in training and skilling the next generation of workers to take advantage of the good jobs we are creating. This week our government has demonstrated its commitment through the Queensland Workforce Strategy. It includes funding for TAFE, recruiting under-represented workers, a preapprenticeship program, assistance to employ migrants and international students, and so much more.

The Albanese government's Jobs and Skills Summit will enable us to work cooperatively to resolve the skills and jobs crisis that became so apparent during the pandemic. The federal LNP had a chance to change the tone and be constructive—a choice the Liberals rejected. I was disappointed that Peter Dutton refused to come, just like he refused to attend the apology. He has proven that he does not care about creating jobs. I do not know what he is afraid of. Maybe he is concerned that the summit will put an end to his overseas au pairs or put at risk the money he makes from his childcare interests. I congratulate Nationals' leader David Littleproud for his attendance. He is proving to be a much better representative of Queenslanders than Dutton and the LNP. It underlines how much Queensland misses out on by not having Nationals like David in our parliament.

I do not blame the Leader of the Opposition for not wanting to talk about jobs after Scott Morrison gave himself all of those jobs in secret. This week we found out that the Leader of the Opposition even holds his shadow cabinet meetings in secret. He will not come clean about what was discussed at his secret shadow cabinet meetings or what was on the agenda at the 'meeting of one' in the dining room where he thought they had their meetings. The Leader of the Opposition will not agree to back our

integrity reforms and the Coaldrake recommendations—and he should. He will not give up his cash-for-access events, and he refuses to say which lobbyists worked on his last campaign. I think he is hoping to hand-pick a new CCC chair in three years time and that is why he will not support the Coaldrake recommendations. While the Premier is in Canberra focused on jobs and everyone on this side of the House is focused on jobs, the LNP have proven that they only care about their own, and they are not even willing to do that properly.