




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR HERVEY BAY

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ADJOURNMENT

Hervey Bay TAFE, Nursing and Allied Health Facility

 **Mr TANTARI** (Hervey Bay—ALP) (7.09 pm): Recently I had the pleasure of welcoming the Minister for Training and Skills Development to my electorate of Hervey Bay. With Jobs Queensland predicting that there will be a need for at least an eight per cent increase in skilled workers in the Wide Bay region by 2024-25, which is more than 12,000 extra workers needed regionally since 2020-21, it was an opportune time for Minister Farmer to visit Hervey Bay to open the excellent new \$1.3 million nursing and allied health facility at our wonderful Hervey Bay TAFE campus.

It goes without saying that the demand for healthcare workers is set to continue to climb due to our region's popularity. This new \$1.3 million facility will equip our local TAFE to meet this demand. This new TAFE facility will be able to train upwards of 120 local healthcare students at home in Hervey Bay every year. The TAFE facility now has state-of-the-art training environments, including low- and high-fidelity wards, a replica nurse station, observation and medication rooms and three general learning classrooms. The training workspaces have also been designed to accommodate virtual reality technology activities into the future.

Talking to the trainee nurses at the facility, they acknowledged how the new facility will give locals a chance to train for a rewarding career at home in Hervey Bay and complete their certification as an enrolled nurse. This is further proof that this government recognises that demand for local health workers in our regional health sector is set to continue. With the Fee Free TAFE program making it easier to study, this growth will no doubt continue well into the future.

The contrast between this positive and forward-thinking government and the desire to drive forward our communities' skills and training and the views of those opposite could not be starker. It is with concern that in Hervey Bay we still have the LNP running around saying that they would make it their goal to bulldoze the Hervey Bay TAFE campus into the ground for some fictitious use of the site in the future. This just shows our community how the LNP has not changed. We know that with the former LNP member's support in 2015, the Hervey Bay TAFE was to be closed. It leaves me to ask the question: why does the LNP hate TAFE so much? Is it because they believe that all skills and training should be privatised? It is their agenda, it has always been their agenda and it will always be their agenda.

On behalf of the people of Hervey Bay, I want to thank the Palaszczuk government for focusing on delivering for the people of Hervey Bay. This facility will go a long way to ensure our community has a qualified and job-ready stream of nurses into the future. I want to thank the nursing teachers and TAFE staff who work tirelessly to train and upskill our future nurses.