




Speech By
Jimmy Sullivan

MEMBER FOR STAFFORD

Record of Proceedings, 30 March 2023

EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING COMMITTEE

Report, Motion to Take Note

 **Mr SULLIVAN** (Stafford—ALP) (3.52 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on report No. 26 of the Education, Employment and Training Committee from October 2022. It is great to follow the deputy chair who reflected that our committee comes together and works quite collegiately, and I appreciate that work under the leadership of the member for Redlands. The inspection and briefing showed the brilliant upgrade to and investment in the Mount Gravatt TAFE. The Fashion Centre of Excellence is extraordinary. It is such a great example of cutting-edge design, different characteristics and, like the member for Southern Downs, things that are beyond my wavelength but stunning nonetheless. It was somewhat fortuitous because the Stafford Salvos has a fashion parade for charity every year and it was soon after our visit that members from the Mount Gravatt TAFE presented their designs on the night and were involved in the event. It was great to see some of the very same teachers, designers and students given that platform to contribute to that in the name of charity and also as a chance to extend their skills and their publicity, which was fantastic. I teamed up again with the wonderful Jacqui Lewis, who was emcee this year. I am looking forward to the next round.

The Fashion Design Museum is an extremely professional and an extremely inviting place—something that all of us can be proud of as a publicly owned building. It was great to see in person. I am a visual person, so in addition to the briefings from TAFE and the department it was wonderful for us to get out there and see it in real life. The technology upgrades were very impressive, particularly in relation to the film and TV department—high-end training, high-end quality technology that is so inspiring for the students—and I cannot wait to see what will come in future years.

In terms of the infrastructure, there are great facilities for students and staff alike. As the chair mentioned, the upgrade included the relocation of central office so that it was integrated into the redevelopment, meaning that the administration and leadership roles of TAFE can be closer to the front line of teaching and training. That sends a very good message and it will provide good practical outcomes as well. I also want to reflect on the horticulture upgrade. There was such science behind it which was impressive to see. There was practical training too with the outdoors and the greenhouse space as well as the business skills behind it—the business plans they had to come up with and the customer service that they provided—and that also provides real benefits for those in the local community in that they can purchase top-quality plants, seedlings and related products while supporting their local TAFE at the same time. It is such a win-win.

The design of the open areas and walk-through areas is well done and creates an inviting and effective campus feel which is so important to the student experience on campus, so well done for that. It was an absolutely great investment. Thank you to the committee secretariat. I align myself with the member for Southern Downs in his thanks for the great work that it does for us as MPs individually and collectively. Likewise, the department put a lot of work into this inquiry, so I thank it for the extraordinary amount of information it provided us. Thank you also to TAFE Queensland, the leadership team and those officers who briefed us both at the hearings and on campus. It was a worthwhile experience. I commend the report to the House.