




Speech By
Hon. Lance McCallum

MEMBER FOR BUNDAMBA

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

TAFE

 **Hon. LR McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (9.51 am): Under Queensland's Big Build the state is booming, with low unemployment, record investment and a strong economic outlook. Our industries need more workers with higher skills and the Miles Labor government is committed to putting Queenslanders at the front of the line for those good local jobs. I am proud to say that this week is a great week for Queensland and an even better week for Queensland workers because the new Miles Labor government is making the most of this golden decade of opportunity by funding training places for one million Queenslanders through our new Queensland Skills Strategy.

This is what Labor is all about: getting more Queenslanders into good jobs with better pay quicker. From health and social services to construction, clean energy, tourism and so much more, it will ease the cost-of-living pressures for those who want to train, upskill, reskill and pursue careers in our state's priority industries. We know that training and free TAFE has the power to change lives. That is why we are boosting funding for up to 70,000 free TAFE places. People who were facing homelessness, mothers returning to work and young people who had not finished high school have all completed free TAFE courses and come out with good jobs—Queenslanders like 17-year-old joinery apprentice Tully Kendall who the Premier, Deputy Premier and I had the pleasure of meeting yesterday. Tully said a big contributing factor for starting her apprenticeship was desperately wanting to get out of school. Under free TAFE she said that to earn while she learns is awesome too. She is getting paid to train and learn her trade and will be a qualified tradesperson when she is still young. Tully is being trained at the biggest trade training facility in the Southern Hemisphere at Acacia Ridge. Because they are doing such great work, our strategy has our proudly publicly owned TAFE Queensland right at its heart.

There is no clearer difference between Labor and the LNP than jobs and TAFE. We are backing up our strategy with real funding: \$370 million for more and better training, including TAFE, only possible because we are making multinational mining companies pay their fair share through progressive coal royalties—the very same coal royalties that the LNP would rip away from TAFE. Whether it is blue collar, white collar or in the service industry, only Labor will ensure that a good job is within reach for every Queenslanders.