




Speech By
Hon. Leeanne Enoch

MEMBER FOR ALGESTER

Record of Proceedings, 21 May 2024

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

TAFE

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Treaty, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Minister for Communities and Minister for the Arts) (9.59 am): We know young Queenslanders are continuing to benefit from our government's investment in skills and training. Yesterday, the new Miles Labor government announced a further investment in skills and training with the announcement of the Queensland Skills Strategy. As we have heard this morning, our new Miles government will provide one million Queenslanders with free and subsidised training, helping Queenslanders secure good jobs, especially young people.

Fee-free TAFE changes the trajectory of young peoples' lives. With an additional 30,000 new TAFE places, young Queenslanders will have more opportunities to learn new skills or gain an apprenticeship, building the foundation of their future. A new career ready VET in Schools program will include funded training and more trade tasters for school students delivered by TAFE. This is to particularly encourage students with an interest in undertaking plumbing, construction or hair salon assistant trade tasters as we know these are translating into apprenticeships and traineeships and employment for our young people. Additional funding for Indigenous workforce and skills development grants means meaningful work towards Closing the Gap targets.

This new investment builds on our existing record of supporting young people with fee-free TAFE. In 2023 alone, 65,000 Queenslanders, including young people, benefited from fee-free TAFE places. I am advised that 88,467 students and apprentices have commenced fee-free TAFE since 2023. These places are supporting young people into careers as nurses, electricians, care workers, bookkeepers, carpenters, healthcare workers, and the list goes on.

In the 2021 census there were approximately 911,158 young people aged 12 to 25 years old. This means that nearly one in five Queenslanders are aged 12 to 25 years old. Our investment in TAFE is giving young people the very tools they need to build their lives in this state and is a very real recognition that vocational training helps empower young people with the skills and training they need to build strong foundations for their futures.