



Speech By  
**Hon. Ros Bates**


**MEMBER FOR MUDGEERABA**

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Record of Proceedings, 12 December 2024

**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**Employment and Training**

 **Hon. RM BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training) (2.51 pm): The employment and training portfolio has a key role in addressing the critical need for more skilled workers over the next decade. The Crisafulli LNP team took the Right Plan for Queensland's Future to the election. It is a plan that the people of Queensland wholeheartedly endorsed. Employment and training are critical for our state's future—a future where our economy will become even more reliant on our success in building the skills of the Queensland workforce, which is projected to grow by more than five per cent within five years.

In the department of employment and training we are equipping students and workers with the skills they need to build secure, long-term careers in our fastest growing professions: health care, STEM and education. Recently I have had the pleasure of meeting almost all of the dedicated and knowledgeable department team members who work at 150 Mary Street. I asked them to share their ideas so we can deliver even better outcomes together. I will be making regular visits and I look forward to seeing everyone again soon.

I have some more stories to share with honourable members. We have had the TAFE South Bank jewellery awards, where a young girl called Indigo proudly showed off the incredible craftsmanship of her father, Clint Slogrove, that earned him the Apprentice of the Year award that night. At the Gateway to Industry Schools aerospace awards I heard from Brisbane Airport Corporation just how much the skills being developed by participating students will benefit the aviation industry. Targeted skills development plus relationships with future employers equals fantastic job outcomes. Just last week we stepped in to save the Queensland College of Wine Tourism after Labor failed to secure a pathway after a partnership—

**Mr Lister:** Hear, hear!

**Ms BATES:** I take that interjection from the member for Southern Downs. Labor failed to secure a pathway after a partnership with the University of Southern Queensland concluded. The university advised the former Labor government of their intent to withdraw from the partnership in October 2023; however, no funds were provided to keep the college open until a new partner could be secured. We will provide support to keep the college operating as it seeks a new operator and works with local industry, business and schools to establish ongoing partnerships.

We have committed to investing a further \$2 million to support recruitment of TAFE educators to better support students while also establishing TAFE Centres of Excellence in Moreton Bay, Rockhampton and North Queensland, ensuring the regions are not forgotten and the pipeline for skilled workers is open across the state.

I am driven and excited by the prospects for Queensland's future under the Crisafulli LNP government. My commitment to all Queenslanders is: unlike those opposite, I will work hard to create the solid foundations upon which our students, apprentices and workers can grow and thrive.