




Speech By
Hon. Ros Bates

MEMBER FOR MUDGEERABA

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Skilling Queenslanders for Work

 **Hon. RM BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training) (2.15 pm): I would like to highlight one of the initiatives in the employment and training space: Skilling Queenslanders for Work. This initiative empowers unemployed and underemployed Queenslanders to attain the skills, qualifications and experience needed to enter or remain in the workforce.

Through Skilling Queenslanders for Work, dedicated community organisations receive funding to deliver tailored training and support for a broad range of our community including young people, women re-entering the workforce, veterans and ex-Australian Defence Force members and their families, people recently released from prison, mature-age jobseekers, and people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

The impact of this initiative is significant. More than \$849 million has been committed to the initiative, with major investment to secure the workforce for industries like construction, primary industries, community services and many more. To date, over 96,000 Queenslanders have been assisted under Skilling Queenslanders for Work, and many more will continue to be assisted under the Crisafulli LNP government. More than 63,000 individuals have secured employment as a direct result of their participation.

In January this year I was pleased to announce the results of the latest funding round. It provided almost \$50 million to support 201 projects that will deliver life-changing training for more than 6,000 unemployed and underemployed Queenslanders. Today I am pleased to update the House that a broad range of applications have been received as part of the first 2025-26 funding round of Skilling Queenslanders for Work.

To assist eligible organisations, information sessions have been held across the state to provide guidance on funding access, identifying local priorities and maximising opportunities for jobseekers and employers. By mid-2025 we expect to reach a new milestone—supporting more than 140,000 Queenslanders. I thank all eligible organisations who applied for funding in the most recent round of Skilling Queenslanders for Work, and I look forward to speaking more about the outcome of this program going forward.

More broadly, I continue to work across the sector to ensure that the vocational education and training spaces are sustainable, whilst providing the pipeline of skilled workers our state needs. This of course includes TAFE, which is a key provider for many young and mature people who are commencing apprenticeships or working towards qualifications in one of the industries experiencing a skills shortage, thanks to a decade of neglect from the former Labor government. Right now, over 27,400 apprentices and trainees are training in TAFE. Only the LNP Crisafulli government has the right plan to give Queenslanders the fresh start they deserve.

(Time expired)