




Speech By
Hon. Ros Bates

MEMBER FOR MUDGEERABA

Record of Proceedings, 27 August 2025

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Skills and Training

 **Hon. RM BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training) (2.16 pm): National Skills Week is another reminder of the 10 years of decline and skills shortages under Labor and the 10 months of delivery under the Crisafulli LNP government. Our commitment to fixing Labor's skills shortage has been marked today with a showcase here at Parliament House, exhibiting the skills and training we are delivering for Queensland's future. It was a great privilege to host some of our dedicated TAFE trainers and teachers at parliament, showcasing the many training options available at TAFE Queensland.

I was thrilled to see so many parliamentary colleagues take up my invitation and try their hand at some of the trade skills on offer at TAFE, including bricklaying, electrical circuits, welding and carpentry. I thank the TAFE Queensland team for attending and sharing their passion for training in this state. National Skills Week recognises the flexible avenues to training and employment, and I note one of our own, the member for Townsville, took one such pathway, having earned a bachelor's degree in engineering before pursuing a trade as an electrical apprentice.

Unlike Labor, who spent a decade presiding over a skills shortage, we want more Queenslanders to see training as a pathway to building the lifestyle they deserve, just like the member for Townsville. Those opposite mounted a disgraceful scare campaign about our commitment to TAFE and to training, but we have spent the last 10 months saving TAFE after Labor presided over 10 years of decline.

We have already delivered a Skilling Queenslanders for Work program, which cuts red tape, simplifies compliance and opens the door for more organisations to deliver results. Our revamped program will change lives by getting Queenslanders ready for a job, rather than just getting them through a qualification. We have saved 336 full-time-equivalent positions within TAFE Queensland after those opposite left them unfunded beyond 30 June 2025.

We are delivering more free and subsidised training, with \$10 million supporting free apprenticeships for under-25s over the next two years. We are delivering state-of-the-art training facilities, including \$201.1 million to deliver a TAFE excellence precinct in Rockhampton and TAFE centres of excellence on the Sunshine Coast, in Moreton Bay and on the southern Moreton Bay islands. We are delivering up to \$50 million to leverage the National Skills Agreement, working to build the VET workforce, deliver initiatives to close the gap and support best practice initiatives at TAFE Queensland.

As we look towards the opportunities of the 2032 games, the Crisafulli LNP government will continue to deliver more training opportunities as we work to address the skills shortage Labor left behind in sectors like housing, health care and construction. After a decade of decline in TAFE and in skills training under Labor, we have spent the last 10 months delivering a TAFE which will build the workforce to deliver the homes, hospitals and major projects Queensland needs.