



Speech By  
**Hon. Ros Bates**

**MEMBER FOR MUDGEERABA**

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Record of Proceedings, 16 September 2025

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Training Awards**

 **Hon. RM BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training) (9.55 am): The Crisafulli LNP government is restoring confidence in our training sector, backing Queenslanders to build their skills and seize new opportunities. We saw that showcased at Saturday's 2025 Queensland Training Awards state final. The awards celebrate the people powering Queensland's future workforce: our apprentices, trainees, teachers and employers making a real difference. The awards provided a platform to honour the most passionate, innovative and ambitious individuals, employers and organisations in the training sector and I was proud to attend.

I was reminded once again of the transformative power of training, providing purpose and motivation, restoring confidence and providing new opportunities—none more so than Therese Stanton, an exceptional example of someone who has overcome the odds and pursued their passion through training. I first met Therese at the south-east regional final at the Queensland Training Awards back in July. Therese lived many lives before her world was turned upside down by a stroke in her early 50s. Therese trained as a nurse but unfortunately due to her stroke, she never actually got to practise, but Therese did not give up. After a long road to recovery, she returned to study at TAFE Queensland and is now back in scrubs at the age of 62. On Saturday I was pleased to congratulate Therese as Queensland's 2025 Equity Student of the Year. I know that the member for Nanango is very proud of her constituent.

I also want to commend Kayla Gagai and Jessica Bichsel, two outstanding young women who have been named Trainee of the Year and Apprentice of the Year respectively. Kayla is a First Nations woman from Cairns who completed a certificate IV in youth work and is now employed as a full-time youth worker with the Vocational Partnerships Group. As our Apprentice of the Year, Jessica Bichsel is changing the face of construction. She is using her carpentry skills to construct sets for films, TV and theatre and she is using her voice to mentor and champion women in male dominated trades. Of course, these inspiring individuals only excel with the support of great teachers, trainers, training organisations and employers. The awards also recognise their efforts.

Emerald engineering teacher Andrew Abbas was named VET Teacher or Trainer of the Year and Andrew's employer, CQ University Australia, was recognised as the Large Training Provider of the Year. The Crisafulli LNP government is committed to recruiting more passionate teachers like Andrew through our \$2 million TAFE teacher recruitment drive and we want those trainers to teach with the best technology and facilities. That is why the Crisafulli LNP government is investing more than \$201 million to build four TAFE centres of excellence across the state, including a new \$61.1 million TAFE excellence precinct at CQ University, Rockhampton North campus.

With more than 700 nominations received, I want to congratulate all Queensland Training Award nominees, finalists and winners across all 14 categories. In 2025 the majority of our winners hailed from outside the south-east corner, demonstrating the depth of talent and expertise across all corners of our

state. A number of winners will go on to represent Queensland at the 2025 Australian Training Awards to be held in Darwin this December and I wish them all continued success.