




Speech By
Hon. Ros Bates

MEMBER FOR MUDGEERABA

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Right Skills Strategy

 **Hon. RM BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training) (2.18 pm): After a decade of decline under Labor we are taking action to secure a pipeline of skilled workers to build Queensland's future. We are reforming Queensland's training system to generate opportunities for all workers. I was pleased to recently launch the Right Skills Strategy 2025-28 delivering a significant milestone for Queensland's employment and training sector. The Right Skills Strategy is part of the Crisafulli government's plan to deliver a better lifestyle through a stronger economy after Labor's decade of decline where Queensland's training system was neglected, campuses were underutilised and opportunities were lost. The strategy will help create the highly skilled workforce needed to strengthen our economy, boost productivity and unlock 430,000 new job opportunities for Queenslanders by 2028.

This is yet another example of the Crisafulli LNP government delivering for Queensland. Labor presided over a skills shortage, allowing the skills gap to widen while demand for housing, for infrastructure and for skilled workers soared. By contrast, the Crisafulli LNP government wants to see more carpenters, electricians, plumbers, nurses and aged-care workers. Put simply, we want to see more people in the essential jobs that are the backbone of our communities. From the cape to Coolangatta, under the Crisafulli LNP government Queenslanders will be able to access the training they need to secure the jobs which will underpin a better lifestyle through a sombre economy.

Over the next four years our strategy will deliver more than \$201.1 million for four new centres of excellence in Caloundra, Moreton Bay, Southern Moreton Bay Islands and Rockhampton; \$50 million to expand apprenticeships in housing, health care and construction; free and low-cost training for Queenslanders starting out, upskilling or returning to work, including young Queenslanders, women and veterans; a proudly regional focus recognising that those in our remote, rural and regional areas have fewer options when it comes to training; and \$2 million to recruit the next generation of TAFE teachers to deliver high-quality training across Queensland.

We are leveraging funding from the federal government through the National Skills Agreement, establishing centres of excellence in priority areas, strengthening the capability of the VET workforce and putting in place tangible actions to close the gap. This investment comes at a critical time. With the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games on the horizon and demand growing across health care, housing, construction and manufacturing, this strategy reflects the Crisafulli LNP government's commitment to securing the pipeline of skilled workers that Queensland needs. We will continue to work with industries to strengthen Queensland's vocational education and training, support completions and job outcomes, and enhance access for all Queenslanders.

Unlike Labor, this government is focused on delivering free and subsidised training in the critical skills areas required. The Crisafulli LNP government is not about box ticking or funding courses for the sake of it. We are basing funding decisions on data and research, ensuring the training we deliver is

directly targeted at critical industries where shortages exist. Our Right Skills Strategy will deliver real outcomes for all Queenslanders, ensuring they are ready to embrace opportunities, secure good jobs and drive the prosperity of our state. The Crisafulli LNP government's investment in training, from the Right Skills Strategy to the \$201.1 million investment in centres of excellence, is another way we are delivering on our commitment for a fresh start for Queensland and a better lifestyle through a stronger economy.