

**Question on Notice**

**No. 494**

**Asked on 16 April 2008**

Mr Moorhead asked the Minister for Education and Training and Minister for the Arts (Mr Welford) —

QUESTION: Will he inform the House of recent initiatives to support businesses to attract, retain and recruit workers in the manufacturing and engineering sectors?

ANSWER:

Through the \$1 billion *Queensland Skills Plan*, our Government is implementing a number of initiatives to address skills shortages and workforce planning issues for these vital industries.

Manufacturing Skills Queensland (MSQ) was established on 1 July 2007 as the Centre of Excellence for the manufacturing and engineering industries. The Centre's role is to develop strong linkages with employers and encourage an industry-owned agenda to attract, recruit, train and retain workers.

Eight Skills Formation Strategies in the manufacturing and engineering industry have also been implemented to allow industries to work together to analyse and address reasons for skills shortages and to devise strategies to attract, retain and develop staff.

The *Manufacturing and Engineering Gateway Schools Project* provides a 'gateway' for students to take up careers in manufacturing and engineering. The project involves nine Queensland high schools working together with respective local organisations to raise the profile of careers in the industry.

Queensland has implemented the *Advanced Manufacturing Plan*, the central focus of which is skills, training and workforce development. A key component of this plan is the *Workplace Excellence Program* which was established to develop a leading-edge, highly skilled workforce.

These are examples of the varied and creative programs that our Government is undertaking to address the issue of skills shortages in the manufacturing and engineering industries.