

Question on Notice

No. 779

Asked on 24 May 2011

Ms Farmer asked the Minister for Employment, Skills and Mining (Mr Hinchcliffe) —

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise how the establishment of Skills Queensland will benefit the residents of the Bulimba Electorate and address potential future skills shortages across Queensland?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for her question and keen interest in all things skills and training related.

The Bligh Government is boosting the number of Queenslanders with a qualification and skilling Queenslanders for the jobs of tomorrow by providing flexible pathways through education and training. We're making good progress towards our Q2 Smart ambition to see three out of four Queenslanders hold trade, training or tertiary qualifications by 2020.

Our overhaul of vocational education and training, and the new industry partnerships we've established, are helping to fund thousands of extra trades training places to meet skills demand and to match training requirements with industry needs.

Meeting the skills needs of Queensland is a shared responsibility of government and industry. To facilitate this shared leadership role, the Queensland Government established Skills Queensland on 20 December 2010.

Skills Queensland is responsible for leading Queensland's skills development strategies across the labour market and builds on our commitment to work in partnership with industry, training providers, unions, universities and the community to create one of the most flexible, modern and innovative training systems in Australia.

Skills Queensland is already having a significant impact on the skills system, driving flexibility and responsiveness in some key areas with early achievements including:

- The \$83 million *2011 Natural Disasters Jobs and Skills Package* – led by Skills Queensland and delivered in conjunction with the Federal Government, the package will assist approximately 10,000 Queenslanders in recovery including jobseekers, apprentices and trainees, existing employees, businesses, industry and communities.
- The *Strategic Investment Fund* – directed by Skills Queensland to support key industry skills priorities and the Queensland disaster recovery and reconstruction effort. This fund provides for grants of up to \$2 million to industry groups and companies for training programs to prevent future skills shortages.
- *Skills and Workforce Development Investment Plan* – to be developed annually by Skills Queensland, the plan is required to identify priorities for government investment in skills, qualifications and workforce development. It will have a 10 year outlook with a five year focus and provide industry with a greater input into the direction of the skills system than ever before.
- Skills Formation Strategies – providing a framework for industries and communities to work with each other, Skills Queensland, the Queensland Government and other relevant stakeholders to analyse and address current and future workforce issues that may affect their future viability;

Residents of the Bulimba electorate and across the whole of Queensland will benefit from these initiatives to strengthen our State's economic base and build Queensland back better, while providing a skilled workforce that meets the current and future needs of industry and the community.