

Question on Notice

No. 853

Asked on 26 May 2011

Mr Watt asked the Minister for Employment, Skills and Mining (Mr Hinchliffe) —

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise on the range of training opportunities that are supported by the State Government and available to residents of the Everton Electorate?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for his question and appreciate his strong interest in and advocacy for Vocational Education and Training and TAFE in Queensland.

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

Our achievements to date are evidenced by the approximately 250 apprentices and 200 trainees currently in training in the Everton electorate alone. The State Government's apprenticeship and traineeship information website is a great resource for anyone researching apprenticeship or traineeship options in Queensland: <http://www.apprenticeshipsinfo.qld.gov.au/apprentices/become-apprentice/five-steps/> .

TAFE Queensland plays an integral role in delivering training opportunities for Queenslanders. Grovely TAFE campus, part of the Brisbane North Institute of TAFE (BNIT) network, is located in the Everton electorate and offers programs across a range of vocational areas including:

- Animal Science
- Vet Nursing
- Civil Operations
- Florist
- Retail
- Turf Apprenticeships
- Language and Literacy
- Education Support (Teachers Aid program)
- Horticulture studies
 - Landscape gardening
 - Parks and garden
 - Nursery studies

Brisbane North Institute of TAFE (BNIT) also works in partnership with schools to deliver vocational education and training. Within the Everton electorate, BNIT works with the following local schools:

- Albany Creek State High School
- Everton Park State High School
- Mitchelton State High School
- Mount Maria College (Enoggera)
- Northside Christian College
- Prince of Peace Lutheran College

Further information on TAFE Queensland can be found online at www.tafe.qld.gov.au , or by phoning 1300 30 8233 . The website contains an extensive range of information about services along with links to the individual institutes and campuses throughout the State.

The Bligh Government is also investing in training and job preparation programs through an annual \$104.5 million investment in the popular *Skilling Queenslanders for Work* initiative to assist approximately 24,000 job seekers across the State. In the Everton electorate, \$519,000 has been invested since 1 July 2007 under *Skilling Queenslanders for Work* providing customised employment and training assistance to 272 local jobseekers and low-skilled workers.

The *Skilling Queenslanders for Work* initiative encompasses the Green Army, Indigenous Employment programs, the joint Federal-State Government Productivity Places Program and the Community Literacy Program and can be suitable for people who:

- need / want a bit of work experience prior to commencing a traineeship (eg. First Start);
- wish to gain some accreditation towards a qualification eg. Cert I or II;
- need extra support and basic skills training prior to entering the workforce (eg. Participate in Prosperity); or
- are at risk from disengaging from the education system and workforce (eg. Get Set for Work).

Further information about the *Skilling Queenslanders for Work* initiative can be found online at <http://www.employment.qld.gov.au/programs/sqw/index.htm> .

Finally, the State Government's Skilling Solutions Queensland provides a free advice service offered in shop fronts around Queensland where jobseekers can go to discuss how to get into the career they want. There is a shop front service located next door to the Everton electorate at Chermide and information on other locations can be found online at <http://www.skillingsolutions.qld.gov.au/locations/index.html> .

Skilling Solutions Queensland also do referrals for Recognised Prior Learning (RPL) which can be of assistance in fast tracking people with some experience, including experience gained in casual jobs while in school, into Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) to get various qualifications. In some cases, the jobseeker might be eligible for some form of government funding to do the training thus reducing the time and costs required to complete a qualification.