

Question on Notice

No. 495

Asked on 4 June 2015

MS PEASE ASKED THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTER FOR JUSTICE AND MINISTER FOR TRAINING AND SKILLS (HON Y D'ATH) —

QUESTION: Will the Minister advise what action the government has taken to ensure that the training sector can provide a skilled workforce to industry?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for her question.

Providing training opportunities that will give Queenslanders access to increase skills and employment options, along with enabling longer term workforce planning for industry, is critical to the Palaszczuk Government. We recognise that skilled workers are able to take on jobs with the right training and knowledge to be successful.

Quality training also gives employers confidence that employees can contribute to workplace productivity and profitability, as well as drive innovation in their chosen industry. This can then add to the economic prosperity of Queensland.

The *2014–15 Annual VET Investment Plan* outlined \$615 million of investment in vocational education and training through targeting priority qualifications based on industry's advice on their skills needs.

Through the Certificate 3 Guarantee under the Plan, eligible Queenslanders without a qualification have the opportunity to undertake their first post-school certificate III qualification to assist them in gaining an entry-level job in a priority industry.

Under the User Choice program, apprentices and trainees and their employers can access subsidised training to help them gain the skills to be our future plumbers, electricians, chefs and mechanics.

For those individuals who would like to build on existing skills to advance in their career or are interested in learning post-trade skills to make them a more highly specialised tradesperson, the Higher Level Skills program provides government subsidised training for a range of priority industry certificate IV, diploma and advanced diploma qualifications.

We have not forgotten those in the labour market that are unemployed or under-employed and are just seeking a chance to work. By reintroducing the *Skilling Queenslanders for Work* initiative, with a \$240 million commitment over four years, we are focused on developing skills for individuals and providing assistance to those Queenslanders that require support to gain the qualifications and skills needed to enter and stay in the workforce.

In 2015–16, we will go further in meeting industry's expectations of a skilled workforce by establishing Jobs Queensland to provide industry advice on skills demand and long-term workforce planning.

We will also sharpen our focus on the quality of training in Queensland by creating an independent Training Ombudsman with the power to investigate complaints about registered training organisations and the training outcomes they deliver.

Our Government is serious about delivering on its commitments, including a skilled workforce that delivers benefits to individuals, industry and to Queensland. I acknowledge the member's desire to achieve positive outcomes for her community with increased training and employment opportunities, and I look forward to working together to achieve results for Queenslanders.