Queensland’s VET sector is strong and vibrant

Over 1/4 million Queenslanders undertake publicly funded training every year

Delivery profile

- Certificate I & II: 25.0%
- Certificate III: 50.6%
- Certificate IV+: 23.9%

11.4% increase in students with disability completions

APPROXIMATELY

2 million competencies successfully completed

OVER

100,000 qualifications
Minister’s message

The Queensland Government recognises now more than ever, how the vocational education and training (VET) sector plays a key role in supporting Queenslanders who are unemployed or seeking a step up, to start on the pathway to a brighter future.

If we are to grow the economy, create jobs and reinvigorate our regional communities, then it is imperative that Queenslanders continue to have access to quality, supportive, and affordable training that meets the ongoing needs of both individuals and employers.

That is why in 2017-18, the Queensland Government is committing $768.9 million for the Annual VET Investment Plan.

While the Queensland Government will continue to invest in upgrading the skills of individuals to access available jobs, develop their careers and be competitive in the changing job market, the Advancing Skills for the Future Strategy will map the way to an innovative, responsive and robust VET sector.

Since 2015, the reinstated Skilling Queenslanders for Work (SQW) initiative has given a helping hand to more than 19,400 people across Queensland needing extra support to complete training and get a job. Approximately 60 percent of participants who have completed a SQW project have gone on to gain employment or enter further education or training.

We have continued to strengthen our Pre-Qualified Supplier entry requirements while maintaining a focus on provider performance and outcomes. While it is important that the Government retains a strong focus on quality and compliance, there is also a need to support best practice and growth in VET services, particularly for apprenticeships and traineeships. As a result, longer term contracts for delivery of training under the User Choice Program are being introduced from 2017-18, to support quality Suppliers to have the confidence to invest in their business.

Jobs Queensland continues to give a strong voice to industry and the regions on skills priorities and long term workforce planning. Many of their key pieces of work, including the Apprenticeship and Traineeship project, the Tourism Workforce Plan and the Advanced Manufacturing Skills, Training and Workforce Development Strategy, will positively impact on the VET system in 2017-18.

The Office of the Queensland Training Ombudsman was established at a challenging time for VET, and I am pleased that this important service has resolved over 660 complaints and enquiries. It has also undertaken a number of critical strategic reviews such as Training and Assessment for the Security Industry and Electrical Apprentices in Queensland, and is currently undertaking a review of Group Training arrangements in Queensland.

With an Annual VET Investment Plan that is both flexible and responsive, TAFE Queensland positioned as a premium provider of VET, and a Quality Framework that outlines our system wide approach to quality, we will continue to build the skills that help shape the lives of Queenslanders, and lay the foundations for a prosperous economic future.

Hon Yvette D’Ath MP
Attorney-General and Minister for Justice
and Minister for Training and Skills
Current directions in VET

Growing our economy and creating jobs remains the Queensland Government’s number one priority. To support this ambition, key elements of the Government’s Working Queensland jobs plan continue to foster industry leadership, inclusiveness and quality in Queensland’s VET sector.

An update on the status of the central VET initiatives of Working Queensland is:

**Skilling Queenslanders for Work**

The Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative supports unemployed and under-employed Queenslanders through training and work placements to assist them in gaining employment and improve social inclusion. In 2016-17, 367 community sector-driven projects worth around $67.2 million were approved for delivery across Queensland providing nationally recognised training, skills development and job opportunities to 13,296 disadvantaged Queenslanders.

In 2016-17, the First Start program allocated $3.75 million across 58 local councils for 300 traineeship positions to provide wage subsidies to employ additional trainees over 12 months. Further funding was also made available in 2016-17 for community-based organisations to create new traineeships with $2.2 million allocated to 43 community-based organisations to employ 110 trainees.

Additionally, a natural disaster recovery package under the Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative was activated to assist with the clean-up and rebuilding program across Queensland as a result of ex-Tropical Cyclone Debbie. As part of the package, immediate job opportunities were made available for local job seekers and displaced workers in disaster affected communities through the two direct job creation programs available under the initiative - Work Skills Traineeships and First Start. To date $6,063,300 has been invested under the Skilling Queenslanders for Work Community Recovery Package to create 321 job opportunities.

**Rescuing TAFE**

There has been additional investment through TAFE Queensland to provide student support services, regional support programs, foundation skills courses for disadvantaged learners, VET in Schools courses, and provide second chance training opportunities for students who have been disadvantaged or have been unable to gain employment. As at 30 June 2017, there have been 10,011 additional enrolments under the Rescuing TAFE initiative. This additional investment in TAFE is one of the contributing factors in TAFE’s position as the premier provider of VET in Queensland.

**The Queensland Training Ombudsman**

Since its establishment in October 2015, the Queensland Training Ombudsman’s office has provided Queenslanders with dedicated support to resolve training issues or make complaints.

By offering a free, confidential and independent service to review and resolve enquiries and complaints from anyone in the VET system, including students, apprentices, trainees, employers, training providers and other stakeholders, the Office of the Queensland Training Ombudsman strengthens the State’s VET sector by improving VET consumer protection and providing a clear pathway for complaint resolution.

The Queensland Training Ombudsman also plays an advocacy role by reporting on systemic issues in the VET sector and advising the government on ways to improve them.

**Jobs Queensland**

Jobs Queensland was established in January 2016 and is an independent statutory authority that brings together industry, industry associations and peak bodies, regions, communities, employers and unions, to provide advice to the Minister of Training and Skills about:

- the skills it anticipates are required for particular industries and regional areas;
- future workforce development and planning; and
- the apprenticeship and traineeship system in Queensland.

Since its inception, Jobs Queensland’s research agenda has focused on assisting the government in determining the right skills mix for the future, by working with industry to obtain advice on future skills demand and workforce planning and development. Advice from Jobs Queensland has helped to shape the 2017-18 Annual VET Investment Plan.

The Jobs Queensland Board is continuing to focus on enabling industries and regions to grow and prosper, which will lead to many more job opportunities and Queenslanders who are appropriately skilled to meet employment demand. In 2017-18, Jobs Queensland will continue to progress a substantive body of work
on anticipating skills needs, with a particular focus on industry and regional growth and demand. This work includes:

- Leading the development of regional Queensland Tourism Workforce Plans to complement the Advancing Tourism Strategy.
- Continuing to lead workforce planning projects to complement the Advance Queensland industry roadmaps.
- Continuing to progress work on anticipating skills needs, with a particular focus on industries and regions.
- Working with key Commonwealth Games organisations to support a positive and lasting workforce legacy from the 2018 Commonwealth Games.
- Providing ongoing advice to direct investment in the $4 million Training in Emerging and Innovative Industries Fund.
- Delivering a workforce development plan for Townsville and explore the piloting of other place-based approaches to anticipating skills needs and workforce planning and development.

Findings and recommendations from these projects will be considered with industry and will help inform VET investment planning for 2018-19 and beyond.

Supporting regional communities

Economic and labour market changes are not being experienced consistently across Queensland. Many of Queensland’s regions are facing periods of unprecedented change or transition to their economies and therefore to the profile of their skills needs. Similarly, certain population groups are often more adversely impacted by this change, and require additional support to navigate and engage effectively with existing services, training programs and emerging labour market opportunities.

The adjustment process underway in many regions highlights the importance for Government to selectively intervene, to encourage and support individual skills development pathways aligned to local jobs, and to encourage employers to support the employment of skilled locals.

In 2017-18, the Department will support targeted regional interventions to improve outcomes under the plan through the following new initiatives:

- The Regional Skills Investment Strategy seeks to partner with selected regions to identify current and emerging jobs, and design tailored solutions to be delivered under the plan in support of the supply of skilled local people to meet skill demand; and
- The Regional Skills Adjustment Strategy will invest in regions facing economic uncertainty, and support individuals to gain the foundation, employability and technical skills needed to transition to jobs in demand. Mature aged workers seeking to transition from traditional industries will be a core focus of this strategy. TAFE Queensland will be a key partner in the implementation of this strategy.
VET investment reforms

In 2017-18, the key features of the plan will leverage our ongoing market strengths, that is; demand-driven training arrangements underpinned by a network of pre-qualified suppliers, published subsidy levels for government-subsidised qualifications and skill sets aligned to industry identified skills needs, and co-contribution to the cost of training by individuals, employers or industry.

While 2017-18 will see maintenance on the dual emphasis of advancing the skills of Queenslanders and embedding quality in all aspects of the VET system in the state, stakeholder feedback and monitoring of the market indicates that the VET sector has turned the corner on quality. Even though market integrity will remain a key priority, it is now time to focus and build upon the significant achievements of the sector.

These achievements include the work that is being undertaken to prepare young people for their future careers, the provision of additional support for those that need assistance in gaining employment, the upskilling of existing workers to transition to jobs that will emerge in a dynamic economy, and the effective partnerships that exist between quality pre-qualified suppliers and employers.

Targeted interventions through the Plan will also encourage skill development in regional economies aligned with emerging opportunities, and support community members to gain new skills and local jobs.

Advancing Skills

In March and April 2017, the Department of Education and Training (DET) consulted on the draft Advancing Skills for the future: a strategy for vocational education and training in Queensland. This provided an opportunity for the community to shape Queensland’s strategy for VET and ensure that our system meets the needs of students, employers and industry.

Engagement with stakeholders has been positive and constructive, with DET receiving more than 50 written submissions and engaging with more than 150 individuals at consultation meetings across the state and through a Ministerial Roundtable attended by a variety of key stakeholders.

The final strategy that takes this feedback into consideration is being developed by DET for release following consideration by Government.

A focus on quality

In May 2017, DET released the Queensland VET Quality Framework as part of the Queensland Government’s commitment to achieving quality outcomes from the state’s investment in VET.

While most providers of VET in Queensland already operate to a high standard, the framework outlines DET’s approach to quality oversight of publicly-funded VET, detailing the many integrated measures that work to build confidence in the VET system and investment in skilling strategies.

The quality framework consolidates Queensland’s comprehensive and systematic approach to achieving quality from State-funded VET — forming a mutual reference point and basis for continuous improvement.

The framework is used to guide the development of operational policy, procedures and guidelines, and helps stakeholders understand the system and their roles — at both national and state levels.

The framework provides a comprehensive outline of the high standards expected in the areas of program design, supplier entry requirements, information and support, market performance and oversight, and compliance.


Pre-qualified supplier entry process

Supporting the new quality framework is the tighter entry requirements for registered training organisations and increased monitoring of those approved as pre-qualified suppliers.

Building on the important and effective measures introduced in 2016-17, DET will further tighten pre-qualified supplier application requirements to raise the bar on quality through more robust assessment of financial viability and compliance history in 2017-18.
VET investment profile

Planned investment

Despite the expiration of the current National Partnership Agreement on Skills Reform which provided more than $100 million to Queensland in 2016-17, the Annual VET Investment Plan continues to strongly invest in the provision of skills forQueenslanders, by committing over $768 million in 2017-18 as outlined opposite.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Investment program</th>
<th>2015–16 budget (SM)</th>
<th>2016–17 budget (SM)</th>
<th>2017–18 budget (SM)</th>
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<tr>
<td>User Choice</td>
<td>$243.0</td>
<td>$220.3</td>
<td>$212.0</td>
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<td>Certificate 3 Guarantee</td>
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<td>$304.7</td>
<td>$216.7</td>
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<td>Higher Level Skills</td>
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<td>$60.0</td>
<td>$70.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Skilling Queenslanders for Work</td>
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<td>$209.7</td>
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<td>Total VET investment</td>
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<td>$768.9</td>
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</table>
VET investment framework

The 2017–18 Annual VET Investment Plan is underpinned by a VET investment framework that supports demand-driven funding arrangements across a number of program areas, provides support for disadvantaged learners and other priority student cohorts, and provides a significant contribution to public providers to enable them to operate in a competitive VET market. The 2017–18 VET investment framework is outlined below.

Investment trends under the 2016–17 Annual VET Investment Plan against the key programs are outlined on the following pages and demonstrate government support of training opportunities across a broad range of industries under the plan.

The level of VET investment for different industry sectors continues to be influenced by a range of factors including professional, regulatory or industrial relations requirements, established recruitment preferences of industry, and the relevance of training pathways to occupations in the sector.

Similar to previous years, there is strong overall alignment between the relative level of VET investment and labour demand for different sectors where there is an existing driver for VET qualifications, such as award or licence requirements, or established industry practice.

During 2016-17, investment was highest in skills related to the construction; community services; utilities; hospitality; and primary industry sectors.

These five sectors accounted for over 50 per cent of VET investment in 2016-17, and represent significant employment destinations for Queenslanders, accounting for over 33 per cent of all employment in Queensland as at February 2017. The educational profile of these sectors highlights a diverse demand for skills, with some relying on the VET system to supply the majority of their workers (for example construction and utilities), others requiring a mix of VET and university graduates (community services), and others where the majority of the workforce do not hold post-school qualifications.
Priority industries

Advancing Tourism

Tourism is an important driver of the Queensland economy, creating jobs, attracting investment and sustaining communities, and the Government has a long-term commitment to grow the state’s $23 billion tourism industry and cement Queensland’s position as a world-leading tourism destination.

Advancing Tourism 2016-20 is the Queensland Government’s plan to grow tourism and jobs, and seeks to capitalise on the opportunity afforded by unprecedented growth in tourism to increase market share and boost tourism jobs.

Given the important role that tourism plays in the Queensland economy, it is vital that industry has the skills and experience to meet the growing demands of visitors who are seeking high quality services and experiences.

The Government will support the growth of the skills required for employment and career development in the tourism and hospitality sectors through investment of $40 million in training and skills under the 2017-18 Annual VET Investment Plan.

Priority training pathways for the tourism and hospitality sectors include apprenticeships in commercial cookery, traineeships in hospitality and travel, VET in Schools opportunities, entry-level training in hospitality skills, and workforce development aligned to higher level qualifications.

Jobs Queensland is also working with industry, regions and communities on a workforce plan for the tourism industry as part of Advancing Tourism, and this plan will inform VET investment during 2017-18 to address the emerging skills needs of the sector.

2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games - Security Provider Training Strategy

The Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games™ (GC2018) is going to be one of the biggest and premier sporting events ever to be hosted in Queensland. With an unprecedented number of people visiting and involved in all aspects of GC2018, security is of the utmost importance.

To ensure the GC2018 Commonwealth Games is the safest and most successful Games ever, the Government is investing an estimated $2 million in training for 1,000 extra security guards under the Annual VET Investment Plan.

The new, fully-trained officers will boost the security guard ranks to 4,200 personnel working at the Commonwealth Games. Successful applicants will undergo training to attain a Certificate III in Security Operations and students will be entitled to obtain two separate industry security licences as an unarmed guard and crowd controller.

This outcome will not only enable students to maintain community safety before, during and after the Games, it will help them secure long-term employment after the Games, not just on the Gold Coast, but across Queensland where their newly acquired skills can help keep communities safe.

Importantly, the strategy is led by the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games Corporation (GOLDOC), with responsibility for recruitment assigned to their prime contractors for security services.
National Disability Insurance Scheme

The Queensland Government is working closely with the Australian Government, local communities and the disability sector to ensure that the transition to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) is effective in terms of the rollout of services to clients throughout Queensland.

Success of the rollout will be dependent on the development of a highly skilled workforce positioned to provide more than 90,000 Queenslanders with the reasonable and necessary disability support they need for day to day living.

To meet this demand, it is predicted that the current disability services workforce will need to double before the scheme is fully rolled out in 2019, equating to an estimated 13,000 additional workers required in Queensland.

Jobs growth is expected to include a range of roles such as support workers, specialist health practitioners, case managers, office administration, customer service and community engagement.

A Queensland NDIS Workforce Strategy ("Workability Qld") has been developed by the disability and community services sector, to support the sector to develop the workforce required to meet the demand of Queensland’s NDIS participants between now and 2019.

DET has worked with the sector to develop the NDIS Training and Skills Support Strategy, which represents an investment of $5 million over three years for training, support and workforce development activities in this sector. The Training and Skills Strategy will leverage off current programs and mainstream investment for this sector within the Annual VET Investment Plan, and will parallel the rollout plans of the NDIS to actively support the supply of skilled staff to match demand for labour from NDIS providers in regions.
User Choice - $212 million

The User Choice program is managed through demand-driven funding arrangements. The program provides a public funding contribution towards the cost of training and assessment for eligible Queensland apprentices and trainees. User Choice provides greater flexibility for apprentices, trainees and their employers to select an approved registered training organisation, known as a pre-qualified supplier, of their choice and to negotiate the type of training they require. In 2017, significant changes were made to the program to improve the consistency of subsidies provided under the Annual VET Investment Plan, and to promote apprenticeships and traineeships as effective workforce development strategies for industry and employers.

Target groups

- Apprentices and trainees employed under a training contract for a qualification funded by DET
- Apprentices and trainees who have entered into their training contract while still at school (school-based apprentice or trainee)
- Experienced workers seeking a complementary pathway to a trade qualification
- Year 12 graduates seeking to commence training in a high priority qualification
- Participants on Skilling Queenslanders for Work (Work Skills Traineeships) projects.

How is funding allocated?

The User Choice program provides a subsidy paid directly to a pre-qualified supplier for delivery of nationally recognised training to apprentices and trainees.

The level of subsidy is determined by the relative priority and indicative value of the qualification. Co-contribution fees are payable under the User Choice program and may be paid by the employer or an eligible third party, but cannot be paid or waived by the pre-qualified supplier.

Further details can be found in the relevant policies, guidelines, strategies and other documents available at www.training.qld.gov.au.

Steven completed his Fitting & Turning apprenticeship in June 2017 and is employed full time at MIGAS. In recognition of his successes at work, and his work with his community at home on Thursday Island, he has been selected as a finalist for the Queensland Training Awards Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student of the Year in the Darling Downs and South West region.

Top five User Choice industry investment sectors

- Construction
- Utilities
- Engineering
- Automotive
- Hospitality
Certificate 3 Guarantee - $216.7 million

The Certificate 3 Guarantee is managed through demand-driven funding arrangements. The program gives eligible Queenslanders the opportunity to complete their first post-school certificate III qualification to gain a job or improve their employment status. Certificate III qualifications are considered entry-level for employment in most industries, and are also the qualification level where significant employment and career benefits are realised by graduates. The program supports the commitment to introduce and strengthen the national entitlement to a government subsidised training place up to the first certificate III qualification, including access to foundation skills and lower level qualifications.

Target groups
- Working age Queenslanders without a certificate III or higher qualification achieved post-school
- Individuals requiring foundation skills prior to entering, or integrated with, a vocational qualification
- Disadvantaged learners requiring additional support through enrolment in a lower level qualification
- Year 12 graduates seeking to commence training in a high priority qualification
- School students enrolled in an eligible qualification under the VET in Schools funding framework
- Participants on Skilling Queenslanders for Work projects.

Seeking a career that involved caring for people, Wendy enrolled in the Certificate III in Individual Support and found aged care a great match for her existing skills. With the theory component informing the hands on elements of the course, Wendy was confident when it came to undertaking her work placement. Wendy’s determination has seen her complete her qualification, gain employment with Queensland Health’s Transition Care Program and also commence a Diploma of Nursing.

How is funding allocated?

The Certificate 3 Guarantee subsidy for a qualification is paid to an approved registered training organisation, known as a pre-qualified supplier, for delivery of nationally recognised training to eligible participants.

Pre-qualified suppliers may also partner with approved providers under Skilling Queenslanders for Work or other programs implemented by DET, such as Indigenous VET Partnerships.

The level of subsidy is determined by the relative priority and indicative value of the qualification. Co-contribution fees are payable under the Certificate 3 Guarantee and may be paid by the employer or an eligible third party, but cannot be paid or waived by the pre-qualified supplier.

Further details can be found in the relevant policies, guidelines, strategies and other documents available at www.training.qld.gov.au.

Top five Certificate 3 Guarantee industry investment sectors

- Primary Industry
- Community Services
- Mining
- General Education and Training
- Hospitality
Higher Level Skills - $70 million

The Higher Level Skills program is managed through demand-driven funding arrangements. The program provides eligible students and employers with access to a subsidised training place in a priority certificate IV, diploma or advanced diploma qualification, or a priority industry-endorsed skill set. The program will help individuals gain employment in a critical occupation, progress in their chosen career, or transition to university to continue their studies.

Target groups
- Individuals seeking to gain employment in a targeted industry
- Existing workers seeking to enhance their skills profile for career advancement
- Individuals seeking a pathway to university aligned to priority occupations for industry and the economy
- Employers seeking to implement a skills development plan to improve the productivity of their workforce.

How is funding allocated?
The Higher Level Skills program subsidy for a qualification or set skill is paid to an approved registered training organisation, known as a pre-qualified supplier, for delivery of nationally recognised training to eligible participants.

Amy Owen is mum of two and a busy full-time employee at a child care centre in Logan. When Amy decided she wanted to upskill her qualification from a certificate III to a diploma, she enrolled in a Diploma of Early Childhood Education and Care with TAFE Queensland Brisbane. Since graduating in September 2015, Amy has been appointed as Centre Manager at a child care centre with the Kidzco group.

The level of subsidy is determined by the relative priority and indicative value of the qualification. Given the benefit to the workplace and individual, there is an expectation of higher levels of co-contribution. Co-contribution fees are payable under the Higher Level Skills program, and may be paid by the employer or an eligible third party, but cannot be paid or waived by the pre-qualified supplier.

Further details can be found in the relevant policies, guidelines, strategies and other documents available at www.training.qld.gov.au.
Skilling Queenslanders for Work - $60.5 million

Skilling Queenslanders for Work is focused on providing direct assistance to those individuals that require additional support to gain the qualifications and skills needed to enter and stay in the workforce. Skilling Queenslanders for Work comprises a suite of programs that encourage equitable participation by a broad range of groups that generally face barriers or challenges in undertaking skills development or entering and remaining in the labour market.

The initiative invests in foundation skills to prepare individuals to participate in and complete vocational qualifications, as well as providing tailored support, job preparation skills, traineeship opportunities and paid work placements on community, public works and environmental projects.

Training that improves an individual’s skill level, employment prospects and social inclusion is a priority under Skilling Queenslanders for Work.

Skilling Queenslanders for Work complements the Certificate 3 Guarantee and User Choice programs by providing supported training places.

Target groups

Disadvantaged groups being targeted include:

- mature-age job seekers (aged 45 years or older)
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- migrants and refugees from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds
- people with disability
- young people (aged 15–24 years), including those in and transitioned from out-of-home care
- women re-entering the workforce
- under-utilised workers, including workers who are marginally attached to the labour force or under-employed.

How is funding allocated?

There are two state-wide funding rounds each year with opening and closing dates published on the DET website.

Funding under Skilling Queenslanders for Work is provided to eligible community-based organisations and local councils to provide customised support and training, to help eligible participants to complete a qualification and transition to further training or employment.

Applications are assessed against published program-specific assessment criteria on a regional basis.

Seven locally-based Regional Priority Jobs Committees evaluate the community-based program applications.

These committees review, prioritise and recommend applications for funding based on assessment criteria and regional needs.

Funding is also available under Skilling Queenslanders for Work to incentivise local councils and private sector employers to employ trainees and apprentices.

Further details can be found in the relevant Skilling Queenslanders for Work guidelines, fact sheets and other documents available at www.training.qld.gov.au.

Achievements to date

Since the reintroduction of Skilling Queenslanders for Work, a total of $135 million has been invested across the state to provide nationally recognised training, skills development and job opportunities to 28,033 disadvantaged Queenslanders. This includes 751 projects worth $124.2 million under the community training programs to assist 27,353 participants, $9.4 million for 680 additional traineeship places allocated across 68 local councils and 49 community based organisations and $1.4 million paid to private sector employers to employ former participants as trainees or apprentices.

Skilling Queenslanders for Work Regional Allocation 2016-17

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Funding amount</th>
<th>Target assist</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Far North Queensland</td>
<td>$4.296 million</td>
<td>932</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Queensland</td>
<td>$4.045 million</td>
<td>785</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Queensland</td>
<td>$6.579 million</td>
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<tr>
<td>Darling Downs South West</td>
<td>$4.594 million</td>
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<tr>
<td>North Coast</td>
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<tr>
<td>Metropolitan</td>
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<tr>
<td>South East</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The First Start program under Skilling Queenslanders for Work provides wage subsidies to local councils to employ additional trainees over 12 months. In 2016-17, $3.75 million has been allocated across 58 local councils for 300 traineeship positions. Additional funding was also available in 2016-17 for community-based organisations to create new traineeships with a further $2.4 million allocated to 49 organisations to employ 120 trainees.
Skilling Queenslanders for Work Achievements

**Industry**
Since 2015, the top 5 Skilling Queenslanders for Work industry investment sectors have been: **Construction, Agriculture, Business, General Education and Training, and Community Services**

**State-wide Traineeships**
Since 2015, **680 additional traineeships** have been allocated across **68 local councils** and **49 community organisations across the state**

**Investment**
Since 2015, $124.2 million has been invested in **751 community-driven projects across the state** that will assist **27,353 disadvantaged Queenslanders**

**Jobs and Training**
Since 2015, **14,121 participants** have completed a Skilling Queenslanders for Work program. **60% are employed**, in training or a combination of both

Tivoli Social Enterprises was awarded $534,800 to deliver a project that employed 37 local participants in three intakes as Work Skills Trainees, and saw the redevelopment of two community assets, the Tivoli Community Centre and the Tivoli Drive In Stage.

The redevelopment of the Tivoli Community Centre has provided a centre for the long term operation of Ipswich Healthy Hampers, a community food based cooperative servicing low income families in the Ipswich region. While completing nationally recognised training in the Certificate I in Construction, participants undertook basic construction tasks including the installation of ceilings, fixtures and fittings, and worked on the car park and surrounds.

With 36 participants completing the project, 27 participants or 75% gained employment, and two participants undertook further education and training.
VET in Schools (VET funded)

VET in Schools (VETiS) is nationally recognised training undertaken by students while they are at secondary school. This training can be delivered by schools that are also approved as registered training organisations, or students can enrol in a course at TAFE Queensland or another registered training organisation.

The VET investment budget will only fund qualifications identified by industry as most likely to lead to employment and these are listed on the Queensland Training Subsidies List on DET’s website. Students can also complete a school-based apprenticeship or traineeship funded under the User Choice program.

VETiS funded through the VET investment budget complements the wide range of VET and vocational learning programs delivered by school and other registered training organisations and funded through the schooling system or by parents.

Target groups
• Secondary school students in Years 10, 11 and 12.

How is funding allocated?
VETiS activity funded by the VET investment budget is managed through the Certificate 3 Guarantee.

Pre-qualified suppliers can access funding from the VET investment budget to enable school students to complete one VETiS qualification on the Queensland Training Subsidies List at the certificate I or II level.

To access the VET budget for a certificate III qualification, students need to gain employment as a school-based apprentice or trainee.

Completing a certificate III qualification while at school will not exhaust a student’s eligibility for a further government subsidy under other VET investment programs, regardless of the funding source for the VETiS activity.

Further details can be found in the relevant policies, guidelines, strategies and other documents available at www.training.qld.gov.au.

Arn-x undertook a Certificate II in Automotive Vocational Preparation in 2016. He has now secured a school-based apprenticeship in a Certificate III in Light Vehicle Mechanical Technology with MIDAS Service Centre. Working through his school holidays in the industry, Arn-x was the first student in his VETiS cohort to get a school based apprenticeship, which will transition to a full time apprenticeship upon the completion of year 12.
Foundation Skills training

Foundation Skills are the core capabilities required for effective workplace and community participation, including language, literacy, numeracy and employability skills. Foundation Skills training provides opportunities for VET learners to build their foundation skills to the level required for the successful completion of a vocational qualification.

DET supports the use of the Australian Core Skills Framework (ACSF) and the Core Skills for Work developmental framework (CSfW) to benchmark learners’ foundation skills capabilities and the use of the Foundation Skills Training Package for skills development.

Target groups

- VET learners who require additional assistance to build their foundation skills to the level required for successful completion of a vocational qualification.

How is funding allocated?

DET is supporting Queenslanders to develop their foundation skills through the following programs.

- Skilling Queenslanders for Work – provides additional support for disadvantaged learners to build foundation skills while they participate in and complete vocational qualifications.
- Certificate 3 Guarantee – enables learners to access language, literacy and numeracy training while they complete vocational qualifications at certificate III level or lower, or to build skills prior to entering a vocational pathway.
- User Choice – enables apprentices and trainees to access language, literacy and numeracy training to improve their skills while they complete their vocational qualification.

Other key points

Foundation Skills training must be tailored to the individual needs of the learner based on an evaluation of their current capabilities. Learners can be enrolled in a full foundation skills qualification or units of competency depending on their individual requirements.

The Australian Government runs a number of foundation skills programs including the Adult Migrant Education Program (AMEP) and the Skills for Education and Employment (SEE) program. Learners who meet the eligibility requirements for any Australian Government foundation skills programs should be directed to these programs in the first instance.

Further details can be found in the relevant policies, guidelines, strategies and other documents available at www.training.qld.gov.au.
Public Provider Grants - $209.7 Million

The Queensland Government provides annual grants to public providers to support their ongoing presence in the contestable training and skills system.

A VET Purchaser’s Grant was first implemented in conjunction with the transition to a contestable Queensland VET market. From 2017-18 a single grant allocation will be made to each public provider, known as the State Contribution Grant. From 2017-18, the State Contribution Grant will also incorporate the Corporate Operating Grant previously provided to TAFE Queensland and Central Queensland University.

The State Contribution Grant is aimed at supporting quality training and skills delivery by subsidising public providers for costs incurred in areas of competitive disadvantage in comparison to private training providers.

The grants for 2017–18 to be provided to public providers are:

- **State Contribution Grant** – supporting public providers to deliver quality training and skills by supporting the additional costs incurred in delivering services and maintaining state-owned training infrastructure.
- **Rescuing TAFE** – additional funding to subsidise student support services, regional support programs, foundation skills courses for disadvantaged learners, second chance training opportunities and to increase the courses available under VET in Schools.

**How is funding allocated?**

In 2017-18, the funding allocations for the Public Provider Grants, comprising the State Contribution Grant and Rescuing TAFE grant, are as follows:

- TAFE Queensland – $179.1 million
- Central Queensland University – $18.0 million
- Queensland Agricultural Training Colleges – $7.6 million
- Aviation Australia – $4.7 million
- Aboriginal Centre for the Performing Arts – $0.3 million

Funding agreements are developed between DET and these providers to outline terms and conditions of the grants.
Queensland’s impact on the National VET landscape

2015 VET Activity – Queensland as a proportion of Total VET Activity in Australia based on State where training was delivered.

Overall share of students, program and subject enrolments
Total VET Students –

- Australia: 4,542,620
- Queensland: 1,095,615

24% of total students

Qualification (Certificate I and above) enrolment

- Australia: 3,009,485
- Queensland: 764,165

25% of all enrolments

Students with School providers

- Australia: 150,585
- Queensland: 55,130

3.3% of total students

School delivered VET in Schools higher than national average

Source - National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER) Total VET students and courses 2015

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