



Minister for Employment and Small Business
Minister for Training and Skills Development

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Our Ref: 01542824
Your Ref: 4060-24

30 May 2024

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
Email: tableoffice@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter regarding Petition No. 4060-24, received by the Queensland Legislative Assembly on 30 April 2024, regarding a new TAFE Centre of Excellence in Health and Nursing in Coomera. I thank the petitioners for raising this matter with me.

The Miles Government is committed to training Queenslanders in the Gold Coast region. This is in stark contrast to the record of the former Newman Government, which closed the Ridgeway Avenue TAFE and was planning on closing three of the six campuses in the Gold Coast region as recommended by the Queensland Skills and Training Taskforce Final Report. Only the Miles Government is committed to a strong and growing TAFE.

The Miles Government is training one million Queenslanders under the *Good Jobs, Great Training: Queensland Skills Strategy 2024 – 2028*. We are investing \$370 million in TAFE and training and funding another 30,000 Free TAFE places. Through Free TAFE, including Free Apprenticeships, we are putting Queenslanders on the path to good quality, high paying jobs. The Miles Government is also investing more than \$14 billion as part of the Queensland Health Big Build, which includes building the new \$1.3 billion Coomera Hospital.

Since 2017, we have invested over \$60 million in TAFE Facilities in the Gold Coast region. This includes the \$10 million Southport Nursing Hub upgrade. Students at this facility will receive substantial cost of living relief on Free TAFE courses in Health Service Assistance, Sterilisation, Allied Health Assistance and Pathology. Students who enrol in the Diploma of Nursing will save up to \$25,000 in fees over the course of their studies, thanks to the Miles Government.

As the manager of state-owned TAFE facilities, DESBT maintains a close relationship with TAFE Queensland to support training delivery needs in the Gold Coast region.

Yours sincerely

HON LANCE MCCALLUM
Minister for Employment and Small Business and
Minister for Training and Skills Development