



EDUCATION AND TRAINING



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OVERVIEW

Our education and training system enhances quality-of-life by giving all children a great start and shaping the skills of the future to drive ongoing prosperity. To support this, the government is committed to ensuring all Queenslanders have access to contemporary, high-quality education and training facilities, no matter where they live.

With Queensland's population growing, demand for education and training services is expected to increase significantly. While the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on school enrolments are still unfolding, over the decade to 2031 around 10,300 additional students each year are expected, with around two-thirds or some 6,800 students each year expected to enrol in Queensland state schools.⁸⁶ Industry skills requirements and the skill levels of the workforce are also changing to support emerging industries and the jobs of the future.

Significant investment in the education sector has increased kindergarten participation as well as year 12 completion rates. The compulsory Prep grade has also engaged more young people in learning.

Queensland currently has 1,254 state schools, 178 early learning centres and over 70 sites owned or leased for the delivery of state-run vocational training and education.⁸⁷ Vocational education and training (VET) courses are delivered by TAFE Queensland and through Central Queensland University campuses as the state's largest public providers.

The private sector has a significant role to play in this sector, with non-government primary and secondary schools providing education for 289,466 students (in 2021)⁸⁸ and 939 private registered training organisations (in 2020) delivering VET in Queensland.⁸⁹

The government will continue to improve school facilities by:

- renewing schools across the state to ensure they meet contemporary learning needs
- ensuring our schools are places where children can learn, and teachers can educate, in comfortable, healthy and energy-efficient environments
- delivering contemporary IT solutions and digital-rich learning spaces aligned with educational requirements
- providing accessible and inclusive learning environments so that every student can access a world-class education.

Schools and training facilities will be better integrated, acting as local hubs around which communities flourish. Benefits will be multiplied through co-location and multi-use facilities that provide collaborative, place-based responses to community needs.

The increasingly dynamic labour market requires a different approach to delivering training services. Industry-centric training facilities are required that support innovative and technology-driven employment pathways and help to reorientate the economy following COVID-19. Investment will focus on enabling adaptable, flexible and well-located training facilities that respond to the needs of fast-changing industries, support job-ready students and grow the productivity of the state's workforce.

Current key initiatives

Building Future Schools

\$2.6 billion to deliver world-class learning environments, opening a further 14 new schools by 2024, predominantly in emerging, fast-growing communities across Queensland.⁹⁰

Great Schools Great Future

\$1 billion to provide new classrooms, halls and performing arts centres, planning for future new schools and the refurbishment of school facilities across the state.⁹¹ This initiative also invests in infrastructure for Catholic and Independent schools.

Local Skills Local Jobs

\$45 million to build and upgrade training facilities in schools across the state, including in our regions.⁹²

Revitalising training facilities

Building on previous investments, \$100 million under the Equipping TAFE for Our Future Program will support Queensland's communities to access revitalised training facilities that incorporate technological advancements and adapt to the emerging needs of students and industry.⁹³ In many cases, an opportunity may exist to explore the co-location of government services to create more vibrant community hubs and improved accessibility.



Fortitude Valley State Secondary College
(Source: Department of Education)



Calliope State High School (Source: Department of Education)

HIGHLIGHTS



1,254
state schools
across
Queensland⁹⁴



2021–22 capital
budget of
\$1.5 billion⁹⁵



over **580,000**
full-time enrolments⁹⁶



45
state-owned training
infrastructure sites⁹⁷



129,000
TAFE Queensland
students in
2020–21⁹⁸



Opened 26 schools
since 2015.
18 traditionally delivered,
and **8** delivered through a
Public Private Partnership
arrangement



Over
12,000
school-based
apprenticeships and
traineeships as at
30 June 2021⁹⁹

*Gainsborough State
School, Pimpama
(Source: Department
of Education)*



TRENDS



From 2021-31, the
Queensland school-age
population is forecast to
**GROW BY 11.6
PER CENT**
(102,600 students)



NINE out of **10** future jobs are projected to be
supported by the **ATTAINMENT OF A VET
QUALIFICATION**¹⁰⁰

▼ CASE STUDY

Brighter future for youth education and training at the Pimlico TAFE campus

Between 2017 to 2020 the state invested \$32.9 million to consolidate the extensive footprint of the 11-hectare Pimlico TAFE campus into a single, two-storey building with an extension. This was the largest capital investment made to the site in more than 40 years. The new campus opened in Semester 1, 2020 providing engaging, vibrant and interactive spaces to improve learning experiences and outcomes and collaboration between students, teachers and the general community. It can accommodate up to 900 full-time equivalent students and supports 20 per cent future growth in student numbers over time.

The project consolidated TAFE Queensland's training delivery which had become increasingly dispersed across many aged and underutilised buildings, and has enabled the Townsville community to access a dedicated non-trades training facility for nursing, hospitality, hair and beauty. The Pimlico campus complements the world-class Bohle Trades Training campus located less than 10 km away within the industrial hub of Townsville.

The redevelopment of the campus created 100 full time jobs during construction, including 30 apprentice and trainee jobs. Upgrades to the campus included energy efficiency measures with the introduction of solar power, and building construction designed to reduce power consumption.

Over recent years, sections of the Pimlico campus have been repurposed with the establishment of the NRL Cowboys House for boys and girls. Together these facilities provide accommodation for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people seeking to expand their sporting careers by simultaneously engaging in education and training courses onsite.

The Queensland Government plans to reuse other parts of the Pimlico campus grounds to accommodate additional government services such as the proposed construction of a Youth Foyer by the Department of Communities, Housing and the Digital Economy.



Pimlico TAFE (Source: Wilson Architects)



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CHALLENGES

Population growth in the south east corner

Growth in the south east region is putting pressure on existing education and training facilities, requiring the expansion of already constrained sites with the majority of the ‘easy to access’ building platforms already exhausted. Projects often require accompanying expansions to administration blocks, amenities blocks, car parking and upgrades to site services.

Since early 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted population growth in Queensland. While net overseas migration has declined to zero or negative levels, net interstate migration has increased. While the impact on school enrolments in the short and medium-term is still unfolding, it also serves as great evidence that Queensland is the state Australians want to move to.



State schooling capacity in emerging communities

Responding to the rapidly changing development environment, and planning far enough in advance to ensure the department secures quality, well-located school and training locations in emerging, but fast growing greenfield areas is an ongoing challenge.



Maintaining and renewing an ageing infrastructure base

The state’s \$24 billion schooling infrastructure asset base requires significant maintenance and renewal investment to ensure learning spaces remain fit-for-purpose – particularly in regions that may not be seeing the same level of growth in enrolments as the south east corner. Renewing state schools to meet diverse and contemporary teaching and learning needs is a key priority.

The majority of the state’s training infrastructure was typically developed on large parcels of land to accommodate both trade and non-trade training delivery. A range of factors including changing industry and employer needs now demands the renewal of facilities to deliver contemporary training products that incorporate cutting edge technology.



Urban densification

As Brisbane’s inner city densifies, an increasing school-age population drives the need to establish new schools within constrained physical spaces.

OPPORTUNITIES

Investing in fit-for-purpose infrastructure and services



Modular buildings, vertical schools and integrated educational facilities that provide universal access are all ways of providing more adaptable and functional facilities that can be delivered in shorter timeframes to keep pace with demand.



Co-locating, sharing and using educational facilities for wider service provision creates more liveable and connected communities and leverages investment across multiple providers. An example of this is the planned Yarrabilba Hive that will provide vital community, health, wellbeing and employment services for the growing community. These approaches improve the accessibility, quality and efficiency of infrastructure and services.



Aligning training infrastructure renewal with contemporary industry and workplace needs

Emerging industries and a transforming economy require an appropriately skilled workforce. To maximise the state's economic potential, training infrastructure will need to be flexible and fit-for-purpose to support the ongoing delivery of quality training services by public training providers. Training campuses must be able to meet changing training needs over time. To achieve an appropriate scale of easily accessible and adaptable facilities, it may be necessary to consider innovative and flexible training approaches to support high demand population centres.

In some cases, the revitalisation of training facilities and connectivity for communities will mean there is greater opportunity to co-locate training services with other government and community services, such as health, secondary and higher education, youth accommodation, transport and more.



Leveraging new technologies to advance learning, teaching and working

The current generation of students are among the first to grow up in a digitally-enabled world. Students are now able to access, process and use information differently to all previous generations. The COVID-19 pandemic accelerated the trend towards technology-led teaching and training which will continue to influence our requirements for enabling infrastructure to support the skills of the future.





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PRIORITY ACTIONS



Encourage jobs, growth and productivity



Develop regions, places and precincts



Enhance sustainability and resilience



Adopt smarter approaches

1 Leveraging new technologies to advance learning, teaching and working (TAFE Qld, DoE)



COVID-19 has accelerated the pivot to eLearning and supporting learning or teaching at home through digital technologies and tools. Keeping digital strategies and plans for technology infrastructure updated will be vital to support digital learning.

2 Building future schools (DoE)



Delivery and expansion of schools in response to forecast growth will be essential along with innovative solutions that support growing communities. The \$2.6 billion Building Future Schools program delivers world-class learning environments for Queensland students by providing new state schools and expanding existing schools in growth areas.

3 Planning for growth (DESBT, DoE)



Undertaking strategic planning and looking at early acquisition of well-located land for schools and training facilities will be critical in growing communities to support effective investment and delivery.

4 Sustainable, efficient buildings and facilities (DESBT, DoE)



The Queensland Government has set a target of zero-net emissions by 2050. Education and training is contributing to this by building energy efficient buildings, installing renewable energy and rolling out energy efficiency programs in schools.

5 Upgrading or expanding existing schools (DoE)



As schools grow, they may require new classrooms, halls and performing arts centres. In addition, ageing schools may require expansions and refurbishments and improved accessibility for students. This will be delivered under the \$1 billion Great Schools, Great Future commitment.

6 Local Skills, Local Jobs (DESBT, DoE)



Invest in training facilities in schools across the state to prepare students with the skills to secure well-paid, secure jobs in their region, setting them up for a solid future. Examples of this are the hydrogen industry in Gladstone and the aquaculture industry in Rockhampton.

7 Remote kindergarten (DoE)



Provide opportunities for children in some rural and remote areas to attend a kindergarten program in a face-to-face environment.

8 Partnering with the non-government education sector (DoE)



Work collaboratively with the non-government sector (Catholic and Independent Schools) to assess the impact of population growth and inform planning of new schools in Queensland.

9 Partnering with industry (DESBT)



Partnering with industry to deliver cutting-edge training facilities built and operated by industry e.g. Queensland Apprenticeships Centre in Beenleigh to include a new Hydrogen Training Centre of Excellence.

10 Enabling contemporary training facilities (DESBT)



Ensuring that the renewal of training infrastructure is aligned with contemporary industry and workplace needs e.g. industry skills in demand, anticipated student volumes, adaptable campuses/buildings to support alternative training and delivery methods.

11 Co-locating training and community facilities (DESBT)



In modernising training facilities there are opportunities to explore the co-location of training services with other government and community services such as health, secondary and higher education, youth accommodation, transport and more.

This may create more accessible spaces where people can meet, exchange ideas and information both formally (through TAFE Queensland training) and informally through social peer learning and workplace-based interactions.

12 Harnessing innovative infrastructure (DESBT)



Providing innovative infrastructure to support training within new and traditional industries e.g. a dedicated Rural Centre of Excellence at Toowoomba (agricultural innovation), and a Renewable Energy Training Facility with Electro Training Group (world class training in solar and renewables).



13 Delivering greener buildings (DESBT)



New and renovated training facilities will be designed and constructed for a 4–6 Green Star rating or similar standard. This will create opportunities for industry to become familiar with green building construction materials and practices and use that knowledge on other local projects.

14 Investigating more cost-efficient delivery and innovative design and construction models (DoE)



Investigate the use of bespoke, pre-fabricated modular buildings and vertical schools and training facilities to provide high quality education facilities on increasingly constrained sites and in shorter timeframes.

15 Co-located, integrated and shared education facilities (DoE)



Greater integration of school facilities into communities utilising place-based responses through the collaborative efforts of community, industry and government stakeholders. Examples include the provision of community, health and wellbeing and employment services e.g. FamilyLinQ model and Yarrabilba Hive.

16 Making better use of existing facilities (DoE, DESBT)



Employ non-infrastructure solutions (e.g. Enrolment Management Plans) to maximise the utilisation of the existing school network. This will include a proactive renewal and maintenance program to get more from existing assets.

17 Encouraging alternative capital investment mechanisms (DESBT, TAFE Qld)



Encourage and utilise alternative capital investment mechanisms (e.g. construct and lease spaces) to support growth and meet service demand where it is occurring in the education and training sector.

18 Developing contemporary IT solutions and digital-rich learning spaces (DoE, TAFE Qld)



Support schools and TAFEs with contemporary IT solutions and digital-rich learning spaces to develop sophisticated digital pedagogies that enable:

- ▶ an integrated curriculum with students learning both about and through digital technologies across all learning areas
- ▶ personalised, collaborative, and integrated learning through online and blended modes of delivery to meet the needs of every student.



Workshop at Pimlico TAFE (Source: Wilson Architects)