



## **RACHEL NOLAN MP**

### **Member for Ipswich**

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6 September 2005

#### **THE BREMER TAFE SCHOOL OF NURSING LAUNCHED**

The Bremer TAFE's new School of Nursing will play a significant part in helping to address local skill shortages in the nursing industry, Member for Ipswich Rachel Nolan said today.

Ms Nolan said the School's Diploma of Nursing (pre-enrolment) course would enable diploma students to become job-ready up to six months earlier than usual.

The School of Nursing was officially opened today by Ms Nolan, representing Employment and Training Minister Tom Barton.

Ms Nolan said 22 students were already enrolled in the Diploma of Nursing (pre-enrolment) course and a second intake would begin in March 2006.

"The course is being run in partnership with the Ipswich General Hospital to ensure it meets the needs of the local community by providing local access to practical training, including clinical placements," she said.

"Because of the high demand for graduates in this area the institute has reduced the vacation periods of the course allowing the nursing students to be job-ready in 12 to 14 months, instead of 18 months."

The Bremer TAFE ensures its nursing students do their clinical placement locally at either St Andrew's Ipswich Private Hospital or one of the Ipswich General Hospital facilities including at Laidley, Esk, Boonah or Gatton.

Clinical placement for the aged care components of the course will also be conducted locally at St Mary's, Villa Maria, Bethesda, Blue Care or the Riverview Gardens facilities.

"The community now has access to a fully accredited local TAFE nursing course which guarantees them local clinical placement and increases opportunities for local employment," Ms Nolan said.

"This School of Nursing is a great example of the Queensland Government's Smart State philosophy in action—The Bremer TAFE partnering with local hospitals and health facilities to meet skill shortages, the health needs of the local community and to provide more career paths and jobs for local residents."

Institute Director Kaylene Harth said the fully accredited course would make a major contribution to meeting community needs.

“We have integrated the clinical training more with the classroom training so that students commence clinical placement in the third week of the course,” she said.

“The benefit of our approach is that students will be able to apply theory to practice and employ a problem-based approach to their practice.”

As part of its partnership with The Bremer TAFE, Ipswich Hospital staff will conduct some of the training classes, both in clinical and classroom environments, and students will have access to the clinical training facilities of the hospital.

The Bremer TAFE also offers Certificates III and IV in Aged Care, a Diploma and Certificate IV in Lifestyle and Leisure and other community services courses.

Further information is available by calling The Bremer Institute of TAFE on (07) 3817 3000 or visiting [www.bremer.tafe.qld.gov.au](http://www.bremer.tafe.qld.gov.au).