



Rachel Nolan MP

Member for Ipswich



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THE BEGINNING OF A NEW ERA FOR TAFE IN IPSWICH

Students from the Ipswich Campus of the Bremer Institute of TAFE will relocate to Bundamba at the end of this year.

Member for Ipswich Rachel Nolan today said the move from the campus in Ellenborough Street would meet the needs of students and a changing workforce.

"The 1901 heritage-listed *Queen Victoria Silver Jubilee Memorial Technical College* has served the Institute and the region well for many years and it's now time for more contemporary facilities to meet the needs of business, industry and the community," Ms Nolan said.

"The building, designed by prominent Ipswich architect George Brockwell Gill, is an example of the region's close ties with the British Empire at the turn of the 20th century.

"The Technical College was constructed as a memorial to the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria and was opened by the Governor of Queensland, Lord Lamington on June 4, 1901 at a time when technical education was becoming firmly established throughout Queensland.

Ms Nolan said the training programs currently offered at the Ipswich campus included visual arts, literacy, numeracy and assisted learning, and the final 270 enrolled in these courses would be the last trained in the iconic Ipswich college building.

"During the last 108 years, many thousands of Ipswich region students have passed through the college's doors being trained in a range of careers from mechanical engineering to business studies.

"Students have progressively moved to the institute's Bundamba campus, a short distance away, while the remaining students will relocate in time for the start of the 2010 academic year.

"These programs all require modern technology and facilities not suited to the heritage-listed building," she said.

"A move to more modern facilities will ensure the most efficient use of resources and the best possible learning outcomes for students.

"This is a real opportunity to develop facilities that will serve the growing communities of the greater Ipswich region, and for TAFE to strengthen its partnerships with business and the region's workforce."

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