1. In 2007, the former Departments of Education, Training and the Arts (DETA), Employment and Industrial Relations (DEIR), and Tourism, Regional Development and Industry were audited by the Queensland Audit Office (QAO) to ascertain if these agencies had suitable frameworks and systems in place to identify and address existing and emerging skills shortages in the state. In November 2007, the Auditor-General presented his audit report to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly to table.
2. As part of its role to consider the annual (and other) reports of the Auditor-General, the Public Accounts Committee (PAC), considered the report, and held a public enquiry in April 2008. The committee subsequently tabled the Public Accounts Committee Report 81 – Review of Auditor-General Report 7 for 2007 – Addressing Skills Shortages in Queensland in Parliament on 4 December 2008.
3. The committee recommended:

* that the Department of Employment and Industrial Relations investigate ways to improve collaboration and dissemination of employment data between industry and government with a view to better predicting future skills needs.
* that the Department of Employment and Industrial Relations and the Department of Education, Training and the Arts investigate ways to improve interagency coordination of areas beyond training.
* that the Department of Employment and Industrial Relations continues to examine opportunities to both encourage older workers and to promote the benefits of employing older workers.

1. The submission provides a joint response by the Department of Education and Training (DET), and the Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation (DEEDI) to the three recommendations identified in the PAC report, in accordance with the Parliament of Queensland Act 2001. All three recommendations are supported. The joint response to the PAC report details how both departments will address the three recommendations.
2. Cabinet approved the response to the Public Accounts Committee Report 81 – Review of Auditor-General Report 7 for 2007 – Addressing Skills Shortages in Queensland (December 2008) be tabled in Parliament.
3. *Attachments*

* [Response to PAC Report 81 – Review of Auditor-General Report 7 for 2007 – Addressing Skills Shortages in Queensland](Attachments/PAC%20Report.pdf)