



Speech by

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MEMBER FOR MOUNT OMMANEY

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JOB CREATION

Mrs ATTWOOD (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (11.53 p.m.): Last month I had the honour of chairing a jobs policy council forum at Ipswich on behalf of the Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations, the Honourable Paul Braddy. The breakfast meeting was attended by local community groups, training organisations and businesses from the local area. Groups were provided with information about the immediate local area, including all outlying areas such as Laidley within the Ipswich region.

Each table of attendees was provided with a question about "in essence" what could be done at a community level to create jobs in the local area. Many suggestions were put forward and included such things as minimising bureaucracy to small business and allowing a fairer system of tendering for Government jobs in the local area. All of the ideas put forward by the people at the forum were recorded and will be put to the jobs policy council tomorrow. Each person will receive a timely response regarding the outcome of the forum.

The task of creating jobs must be broken down into smaller, more manageable areas. That is why forums have been and will be conducted in each region. The community has the best ideas about what should happen at the local level. The Department of Employment and Industrial Relations is focused on jobs and on putting the community's ideas into policy. I believe that, if every small business is given the opportunity to employ one person, the unemployment rate will be reduced rapidly. We as a Government must put in place mechanisms which allow this to happen.

As a former manager of the Employer Services Unit in DEETYA, I saw many small businesses fall asunder because they had no support or encouragement to stick it out past the bad patch. This Government will make it easier for small business to prosper, to grow and to create jobs. This is the key to job growth in our community. The Mount Ommaney electorate has a powerful and committed chamber of commerce. This organisation is about networking and supporting each other in business. If there is a way that they can help their colleagues, they will find it. The Government will consider any way possible to assist small business. The pay-off will be more jobs for Queenslanders.
