



Speech by

**Hon. J. ELDER**

**MEMBER FOR CAPALABA**

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Hansard 2 December 1999

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Business Cadetship Scheme**

**Hon. J. P. ELDER** (Capalaba—ALP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development and Minister for Trade) (9.45 a.m.), by leave: Last year the Beattie Government instigated a business cadet scheme to allow young Queensland businesspeople to spend time in foreign countries. The scheme, to which this Government has allocated \$1.7m over four years, was introduced not only to further the skills of these young people but also to imbue an export culture among the coming generation in the Queensland business community.

I am pleased to be able to tell the House that, following the success of the four cadets involved in the first year of the scheme, the Government will be awarding six cadetships for next year. As part of this scheme, cadets will be required to create a program aimed at increasing trade and investment outcomes for Queensland industry. The project will be based on a proposal submitted by the applicant and must relate to the nominated specific industry sector. The project will need to be developed in conjunction with a Queensland industry organisation or at least two small to medium sized enterprises in Queensland.

The industry sectors targeted by Government include telecommunications, information technology, organic foods, biotechnology and health care services. The whole purpose of this scheme is to give young Queensland businesspeople business contacts in other countries that they will be able to use later in their own business career. While the cadets will have specific tasks with trade and investment offices, they will also be expected to get out and about in the business communities in their host countries. The projects being undertaken by the six cadets in next year's round cover a wide cross-section of Queensland industry.

Robyn Cross, who will be based in the Queensland Trade Office in London, will examine the export potential of organic stockfeed to service the growing market need for organic meat products in the European Union, as well as the export of organic meat products to the European Union. Julia Tu will be based in Hong Kong. She will investigate and identify opportunities for Queensland Health and information technology industries in Hong Kong. John Nowland will be based in Taiwan. He will explore the opportunities for the Queensland aged care industry to export services and products into the Taiwanese market. Judith Veco will be based in Tokyo. She will research the opportunities for Queensland biotechnology providers to export products and expertise to the Japanese market. Gerald Haaima will be based in Los Angeles. He will undertake research into the manner in which biotechnology research undertaken in public institutions is transferred to commercial development and how this model can be applied in Australia. Owen Carter will be based in Shanghai. He will research market opportunities in China by identifying local companies and instrumentalities that purchase transmitting components to contract mobile phone transmission stations.

In the past few years we have seen a dramatic change in our export profile, and I expect we will see an ongoing and continuing change. In this context, it is important that we do not retreat from the rest of the world but continue to engage it. We have always been a nation of exporters and will continue to be so. Schemes such as this will encourage an export culture, which is necessary for our future.