



Speech by

KAREN STRUTHERS

MEMBER FOR ALGESTER

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BEATTIE GOVERNMENT, EMPLOYMENT

Ms STRUTHERS (Algester—ALP) (10.26 a.m.): If you are 45 years of age, desperately seeking work, getting the message that you are past your used-by date, who cares? Come on, members, you know the answer. The Beattie government cares! It is the Beattie government that set up the Breaking the Unemployment Cycle package, a \$600-plus million package. It is the Beattie government and the Minister for Employment and Training who set up a package Experience Pays for people over 45 years of age. These sorts of packages create real jobs for real people and give them real pride and real security.

Let me tell honourable members some more good news. Do members remember the 45 jobs in 45 weeks for over 45s on the south side of Brisbane? Well, guess what: that program is 26 weeks on and how many jobs have been created? Forty-five jobs in 26 weeks—well exceeding the target. These are people—Stephen and Christine and John and all the others in this program—who have got real jobs, real incomes and a real go-on in life because of the support offered through these sorts of programs.

Many of these people have been out of work for on average 78 weeks or more. It is this government who cares. The opposition parties when in government did not even have a dedicated ministry for employment. That is how much it cared. It is this government that has a magnificent \$600-plus million package, it is this government that has an Experience Pays program and it is this government that cares about people to give them real jobs and real opportunities.

Well done to the Quest newspapers, Ray Goodey and others. The magic of this program locally in Brisbane has been the cooperative effort at the local level from the Quest newspapers, the Chamber of Commerce, the Department of Employment and Training, and Mount Gravatt Training Centre. Many people have worked hard locally.

Time expired.