



Speech by

Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard Thursday, 10 August 2006

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Employment Growth

Hon. PD BEATTIE (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier) (9.47 am): Recent data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics shows that Queensland has over 36,000 job vacancies. This accounts for 24 per cent of all job vacancies in Australia and shows again that Queensland is Australia's engine room for employment growth.

Since mid-1998, job vacancies in this state have grown 70 per cent, and we have also experienced sustained employment growth. Total employment in the state grew from 1,617,000 in June 1998 to 2,039,000 in June 2006. In fact, Queensland produced 28 per cent of the nation's jobs this June. I seek leave to have the details incorporated in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

The State's trend unemployment rate of 4.7% is also below the national average of 4.8%, and far better than it was back in June 1998 when unemployment was 8%.

Recent interest rate increases have highlighted the lower cost of living in Queensland compared to New South Wales. If you have a house in Sydney, you could sell it, come here, live very comfortably and have the added opportunity of getting the job you want in a growing and dynamic economy.

This coming weekend—11th to 13th of August—the Queensland Government is hosting an exhibition at Sydney Olympic Park to attract skilled workers to the Smart State. The exhibition will feature over 200 Queensland businesses, local authorities and industry bodies who are all keen to recruit skilled staff.

The exhibition will show what a great place Queensland is to work and live.

To support initiatives like this, the Government has set strong foundations with the \$1 billion Queensland Skills Plan, along with numerous other targeted initiatives to keep the Smart State delivering for Queenslanders.