



Speech by

Lillian van Litsenburg

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

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REDCLIFFE ELECTORATE

Ms van LITSENBURG (Redcliffe—ALP) (12.07 pm): Redcliffe is a town coming of age. It was not long ago that young people had difficulty gaining employment and some businesses were not having the success experienced by many other businesses in the state. This is an issue I am committed to changing. The Beattie Labor government is a strong supporter of business and I am working for better outcomes for the businesses and the people of Redcliffe.

Last week I attended the 80th anniversary celebrations of Fibre King, a family owned and run company that started as an engineering and smithy enterprise in 1927. The company has continually redefined itself to stay at the cutting edge of technology. With a \$103,000 grant from the department of state development Fibre King won a \$7 billion contract with Coles to develop a returnable plastic crate erector machine. This is the first of its kind to be designed and manufactured in Australia. In all of this the only thing that has not changed is the fourth and fifth generation of the family still working in the company and the way it looks after its employees which encourages loyalty and long service.

This is not the only distinguished company on the Redcliffe Peninsula. With Queensland government grants, AI Scientific, among others, has been just as successful and it is also at the cutting edge of their field. While companies like this account for about 10 per cent of Queensland's economy, they are the state's single largest providers of full-time jobs. It is these companies that will provide jobs for our children and their children into the future. Jobs are what we need for people in Redcliffe.

The Queensland government has been working towards skilling young people and unemployed people to empower them to gain the vital skills they need to take their places in the workforce. I have had the pleasure, since my election in September, of representing the minister for state development, John Mickel, at the graduation of several Skilling Queenslanders for Work programs. These include: the Arts for the Future project run by the Redcliffe Area Youth Space for 13 young people developing design, organisation, administration and events management skills; the Redcliffe Showgrounds refurbishment project run by the Kurbingui Youth Development Association for nine Indigenous graduates developing basic carpentry, painting, odd-job skills and resume writing; the Red Shed project run by the Neighbourhood Centre and Help Enterprises for at-risk graduates developing organisation, marketing and tool-making and maintenance skills; and the Colour Me Multicultural project run by Redcliffe City Council for 24 graduates from non-English speaking backgrounds developing promotion, organisation and administration skills. These programs attracted grants of around three quarters of a million dollars. On each occasion a high number of the graduates were not able to be present because they had already started a job, training or an apprenticeship. That is the true mark of success.

There is no price on people making a successful start to their lives and the positive results from better relationships, more positive role modelling for their children in the future and people being able to be self-reliant and contribute to the community. The cornerstone of the Beattie Labor government's goal for Queensland is to improve the lives of ordinary people through better access to employment opportunities and supporting businesses to become not only industry leaders but also good employers.