



Speech by

**Hon. PETER BEATTIE**

**MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL**

Hansard Thursday, 15 March 2007

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## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **AusAID Australian Leadership Awards Fellowship**

**Hon. PD BEATTIE** (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.52 am): I want to report on the International Development Business Unit in my department. It has been successful in the first round of funding from the AusAID Australian Leadership Awards Fellowship program. I seek leave to have the details incorporated in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

AusAID will provide a grant of \$44,275 to enable the Trade and International Operations Division to provide an 'exporter development program' to five officers from the Papua New Guinea Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Papua New Guinea Investment Promotion Authority.

The visiting officers, as fellows, will focus on export policy, program development and implementation over a ten day period in May 2007.

They will travel to Cairns, Rockhampton, Maryborough, the Gold Coast and Toowoomba to work closely with TradeStart officers in State Development Centres delivering an exporter development program to regional clients.

This training will help Papua New Guinea to increase overseas trade and further develop its own economy.

The Queensland Government enjoys a very close relationship with the Government of Papua New Guinea, underpinned by strong, historic links between our people—the fellowship will help strengthen those links.

The Group agreed, at its last meeting in March 2006, that Papua New Guinean officials would undertake short term placements in Queensland Government agencies.

Two other Queensland Government Departments have also been successful in gaining funding of up to \$82,400 under the Australian Leadership Awards Fellowships Program.

The Department of Natural Resources and Water received a grant to build the capacity of Papua New Guinean senior government land administrators to apply methodologies relating to the development, delivery and systems application of an enhanced land titles registration system for the country, and improve economic management and governance issues.

The Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries received a grant to assist Papua New Guinea to identify and prepare for key risks in terms of plant and animal biosecurity.

Queensland has had a long history of assisting Papua New Guinea and these programs will continue that tradition and enhance our relationship with our important Pacific neighbours.