



Speech by

Ms Grace Grace

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

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TOWARD Q2: TOMORROW'S QUEENSLAND

Ms GRACE (Brisbane Central—ALP) (12.06 pm): I would like to emphasise and highlight the Bligh government's 2020 vision for Queensland under the Toward Q2 initiatives. While this program is an ambitious vision for the future, it is already beginning to take shape on the ground throughout Queensland and in my electorate of Brisbane Central among vital community groups and not-for-profit organisations that do much of the heavy lifting when it comes to the delivery of front-line services for families and individuals in our community. Those groups embody the strong, healthy, smart and fair objectives of Toward Q2 and have been assisted by the Bligh Labor government through many programs, namely the Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative and other community benefit funding initiatives. We are ensuring those community groups have access to financial support for projects that will benefit not only the organisation itself but also the community at large. This is where the rubber meets the road for Toward Q2.

The Toward Q2 objective of SMART means delivering world-class education and training. In my electorate it has been implemented through many Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiatives and projects. For example, recently the Australian-Tongan Youth and Community Association Incorporated, located in Fortitude Valley, received \$215,000 for an innovative project to develop a newspaper based in New Farm. Over 21 weeks, 12 young Pacific Islanders will work together to develop a newspaper using English and Pacific Island languages. Those young people will complete a number of practical tasks throughout their paid work placement, including desktop publishing, photography, graphic design, interviewing, writing and editing, customer service, marketing and advertising. Also, a further 28 participants will receive support towards meeting their employment goals including resume writing, interview skills, online job searching and personal presentation. This project will also address personal concerns such as accommodation issues, mental and physical health, and family conflicts so that participants are better placed for handling employment and family life. A healthy community is a good community.

Also under the Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative the Multicultural Community Centre's one-stop shop project has received funding of almost \$500,000. This project will see 120 migrants and refugees receive accredited training in aged care and children's services, and a further 10 individuals will complete paid work placement in construction. I congratulate the MCC's volunteer director Jeannie Mok and her dedicated staff for their hard work. In the past 12 months they have assisted over 220 people through accredited training or job preparation activities.

The MCC aims to assist a further 230 people over the next 12 months, and I get much joy from attending their graduation ceremonies and seeing firsthand how the training received has changed their lives. Not only are these projects smart but they are also fair by supporting safe and caring communities where all people regardless of their background are given a chance to contribute to their community and society at large. The Multicultural Community Centre is definitely an inspiration to me and Jeannie Mok and her hard work is second to none.

The Bligh Labor government has a healthy vision for Queensland and a proven track record of supporting our not-for-profit groups to continue serving as the backbone of their community, providing tangible benefits through a broad range of services. The Toward Q2 vision of making Queenslanders Australia's healthiest people is given a boost in the latest round of the Jupiters Casino Community Benefit

Fund, with three hardworking not-for-profit organisations in my electorate sharing in over \$110,000 in funding.

The Leukaemia Foundation of Queensland has been successful in obtaining a grant of over \$50,000 to go towards the purchase of new beds and to repaint its hospice. I take this opportunity to thank the Leukaemia Foundation, on behalf of my constituents and all Queenslanders, for its hard work and dedication. Another very worthy group, the Schizophrenia Fellowship of Queensland, has also received \$50,000 towards the purchase of furniture and workstations to assist in the fit-out costs for the Fellowship House redevelopment on Herston Road, Herston. I wish it every success with that new building. Retina Australia, based in Fortitude Valley, has received nearly \$10,000 in funding towards the purchase of a photocopier. It does great work and is committed to raising funds for research into the detection, prevention, treatment and cure of inherited retinal dystrophies.

A strong economy is built by healthy and smart Queenslanders in a community that is fair to all. That is what the Bligh Labor government's vision for tomorrow's Queensland, Toward Q2, is all about. Strong communities also include building the infrastructure of the future, and I am pleased to advise that the new, modern, refurbished and renamed Brunswick Street station will be opened two months ahead of schedule this Friday after a spend of \$33 million to unveil the new and fabulous station.

Time expired.