



Speech by

Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

Hansard Wednesday, 11 November 2009

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Disability Services; Transition From School Program

Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Minister for Disability Services and Multicultural Affairs) (10.24 am): I have good news for Queensland. The Bligh government will increase its support for school leavers with a disability throughout Queensland to \$4 million this financial year.

We will now help even more young Queenslanders to access the jobs, care and support they need to build productive and rewarding lives after school. It will help 290 young Queenslanders this year—up from 260 last year. We want to ensure that more young Queenslanders with a disability get a service. I am pleased today to announce a new Transition from School Program to help young Queenslanders access education and training and to get a job. This new program will help young people with a disability throughout Queensland acquire skills in IT, communications and business.

As these young people enter work, vacancies will be created for other students with a disability to enter the program. In the past, people would remain in the program for many years and this would prevent other young people with a disability from entering it. The existing Post School Services Program will continue to provide school leavers with important life and social skills, opening up new opportunities for social interaction.

From Cape York to Coolangatta and inland through Central Queensland to the Darling Downs, young people with a disability will benefit from our efforts to build a more inclusive Queensland. Our extra \$4 million to support school leavers is a further sign of the Bligh government's commitment to building a modern Queensland—one which can be enjoyed by all Queenslanders.