



Speech by


Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe

MEMBER FOR STAFFORD

Hansard Thursday, 10 March 2011

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Get Set for Work Program

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Employment, Skills and Mining) (9.52 am): The Bligh government is committed to providing jobs for Queenslanders. That is why we are investing \$13 million in the very successful Get Set for Work program. This targeted program gets in early to help young people who have either dropped out of school or who are at risk of dropping out find jobs and stay in them or improve their chances of doing so. All up, the investment is expected to help more than 2,000 young Queenslanders participate in 69 projects right across the state including six projects in North Queensland to help some 280 young people, nine projects in Central Queensland to help more than 210 people, 12 projects in Southern Queensland including places like Bundaberg and Maryborough to help some 320 young people and 42 projects in the south-east corner to help 1,520 young people.

All of these projects are run by local community based organisations that have established networks with employers and others within their communities. Organisations help participants develop key job skills including budgeting, how to search and apply for jobs, and how to plan for a future career. In just one example, last year SCISCO Career Pathways on the Gold Coast worked with 62 young people at Southport and Palm Beach. Almost 90 per cent of participants are now either earning or learning. I am also pleased to announce that this year SCISCO has expanded to a third location at Coomera and expects to assist 90 young people.

I would like to take a chance to reassure the member for Bundaberg that we are working to support people in his electorate, particularly considering recent employment impacts in that city. This financial year three Get Set for Work programs are being funded with almost \$350,000 to help 65 people in the local area. It is part of a \$3 million employment package in Bundaberg that is helping almost 800 people. It is complemented by our Jobs Assist package, which has helped retain 680 jobs and has created 90 jobs. Get Set for Work projects are producing great results for young Queenslanders.