



Speech By  
**Hon. Tim Nicholls**


**MEMBER FOR CLAYFIELD**

---

Record of Proceedings, 1 April 2014

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Great Start Grant**

 **Hon. TJ NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade) (9.57 am): The government came to office promising to build a four-pillar economy in Queensland to encourage jobs growth and build prosperity. One of those vital pillars, of course, is the construction industry. To kick-start construction in 2012, the Queensland government introduced the \$15,000 Great Start Grant for first home buyers seeking to purchase a new home.

I am pleased to inform the House that more than 5,000 Queensland families have now received a Great Start Grant to help get them into the housing market. As at 25 March, 5,263 grants worth \$78.9 million have been approved and paid to Queensland families. A further 493 grants have been approved and will be paid as soon as the trigger point in construction is reached.

The payment of these grants represents hundreds of millions of dollars worth of construction being undertaken in Queensland and, importantly, it represents thousands of jobs. Almost half the grants have been paid in the greater Brisbane area and more than 10 per cent have gone towards homes in the Gold Coast region. There has also been a significant interest from North Queensland, with almost 20 per cent of the Great Start Grants paid to residents living north of Mackay.

The construction industry is a jobs-intensive industry, the biggest employer of the four pillars of our economy and second only to the resources sector in economic output. The effects of the grant are being seen with the continued growth in trend dwelling approvals as more families enter the market.

Developers are reporting that the grant is having a positive effect. As an example, Stockland reports that first home buyers represented almost half of their net deposits in Queensland in the December quarter, signalling a return to confidence among buyers.

The Great Start Grant is yet another way that the Queensland government is ensuring that we remain a great state with great opportunity.