



Speech By  
**Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk**


**MEMBER FOR INALA**

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Record of Proceedings, 27 March 2015

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Jobs**

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.34 am): I made a pledge to Queenslanders that jobs would be front and centre for this government and at the forefront of every minister's mind. We want to make sure we get as many people as possible into the workforce. Our Working Queensland strategy will be the starting point for our job creation initiatives. Key areas for us to help drive economic growth and job creation are skilling workers and increasing business confidence so businesses are more inclined to create jobs. Our policies aim to create both employment and participation in the economy.

Everyone knows our unemployment rate has deteriorated in the past three years. In March 2012 our trend unemployment rate was 5.5 per cent. In February 2015 the same rate was 6.5 per cent. So it is very clear that increased employment opportunities are important for all Queenslanders. They are especially important for our youth, who are facing unemployment rates of around 20 per cent in some parts of the state, and our most disadvantaged people. Getting these people into the workforce will help reduce poverty and increase their involvement in society which not only benefits them but has flow-on benefits for the whole state.

Our Working Queensland plan is comprehensive. We intend to work with all Queenslanders to drive down the high unemployment rate that we are now faced with. We want all Queenslanders to benefit from the dignity that comes from having a job. Queenslanders deserve a government that will focus on these issues. We will do everything we can to stem the tide of rising unemployment and get Queenslanders back to work.