




Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

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ADJOURNMENT

Skilling Queenslanders for Work, Graduation

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (7.06 pm): Before the election I promised to boost employment and invest in training and education in Woodridge, and I am delivering on that promise. As a government we have reinstated the Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative. Within my electorate of Woodridge, 18 projects delivered through eight organisations received funding to the tune of \$2.6 million in the first funding round. This is slated to create approximately 660 jobs for our local region. In October I had the pleasure of attending the first graduation of skilling Queenslanders participants at IKEA in Slacks Creek in the electorate of Woodridge.

Mr Hinchliffe: Does that make you the member for IKEA?

Mr DICK: Thank you, Leader of the House. No, it does not make me the member for IKEA, but I am very proud to support a large employer in my electorate. Twelve people successfully completed the Hospitality Certificate 2 course thanks to the partnership between the Palaszczuk government, Access Community Services Ltd, Icon Hospitality Training and IKEA.

I am proud to say that the graduates included: Troy Visser, Sam Sangtea, Odira Uwizesimana, Yvette Nshimirimana, Yvonne Mukashema, Ian Roberts, Mohsen Abdollahi, Zakaria Zakaria, Abdul Salam, Vung Huai, San Ariff and Yar Mohammad. I want to recognise these graduates for the hard work, dedication and long hours they have invested in completing this course. I understand there was a 100 per cent attendance rate by participants during the course. I congratulate them on their diligence—something that will stand them in good stead, as I said at the graduation—during their careers in the workforce.

I also want to acknowledge the mentors, trainers, program coordinators and managers who have made this possible for these young people. This includes Icon Hospitality Trainers Neil Caldow and Peter Mills; Shane Wilson, D'Neale Prosser, Samantha Milburn and Jason Osborn from IKEA, who supervised, supported and worked directly with the participants; Tania Pilkinton, Shane Thompson and Peter Hodges from the Department of Education and Training; and Pauline Streten, Diana Bryson and Mitch Ryan from Access, who engaged the individuals to participate in the program. I also want to recognise the CEO of Access Community Services, Gail Kerr—

Mr Power: Hear, hear!

Mr DICK: I take the interjection of the member for Logan—whose organisation is instrumental in, amongst other things, providing training and employment opportunities for residents of the Woodridge electorate and the City of Logan and helping those citizens secure better futures. I look forward to continuing to promote job opportunities for the people of Woodridge through job creation programs such as Skilling Queenslanders for Work.