




Speech By  
**Joseph Kelly**

**MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES**

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### **JOBS QUEENSLAND BILL**

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (5.27 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Jobs Queensland Bill 2015. I frequently have discussions with people in my electorate about training and jobs. I speak with a diverse range of people: those who own small businesses; managers in larger private, public and non-profit organisations; union members; young students; and parents of young people about to enter the workforce, and all are deeply concerned about how we will assist people to develop the skills, knowledge and confidence to enter the workforce. All are doing their bit to achieve this: small and large businesses are doing their bit to try and develop their staff; large organisations like the Greenslopes Private Hospital play a major role in training an array of people to work in various roles in the health care sector.

I recently had the pleasure of visiting the Baxter compounding pharmacy in Coorparoo with the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services. This organisation provides two months of training for new staff before they are allowed to even enter the sterile work area. Students in my electorate approach their studies in a responsible and serious manner, and they are supported by parents who make significant sacrifices to obtain the best education possible. All of these groups tell me that they are looking to the government for leadership on the issue of skills development.

When I have discussed our Jobs Queensland policy with people in my electorate they have been very supportive. That is why I am supporting this bill. Like me, the people of my electorate believe that the government can and must intervene in the labour market by actively planning our workforce of the future and ensuring we have the capacity to develop it.

Our economy is changing, our society is changing and the jobs we are doing are changing. In my own experience, many of the jobs that now exist in the healthcare sector certainly were not in existence when I started 27 years ago. It is imperative that the government establishes a process to plan for workforce development. While the government has the capacity to have an understanding of these issues, it is imperative that we establish an independent body that engages all stakeholders to advise the government on planning for workforce development.

This bill establishes an independent board made up of industry leaders, employer representatives, union members and experts with specialist skills. Unlike those on the other side of the House, we are prepared to listen to all stakeholders. In fact, this legislation demands that the minister cannot direct the advice given by this group—another example of the willingness of the Palaszczuk government to truly listen to the people of Queensland. This is in stark contrast to the past three years and is warmly welcomed in my electorate.

Whenever I speak to owners and managers of business or those who manage non-profit or government organisations, it does not take long for discussions to turn to workforce issues. All of the people I speak to are deeply invested in the issue of developing a sustainable workforce that will meet the needs of their organisations into the future. Businesses like Borgo Salumi in Holland Park have

identified their workforce needs and take responsibility for training their staff. The committed members of the Southside Chamber of Commerce often turn their minds to workforce issues, and many have talked to me about the needs of their business sectors. When I talk to people from the unions, like the Transport Workers Union or the Services Union, they can quickly identify the training issues for their industries. These are the people we can and should listen to. They are best placed to understand their industries and they are keen to make a contribution. With the passage of this bill we are not only listening to these people; we are empowering them to give frank and fearless advice—something we should all welcome in our Westminster tradition.

I am extremely pleased that Jobs Queensland will give advice to the minister on three key areas. First, it will focus on anticipated needs in specific industries and regional areas. This is recognition that we need to develop strategies specific to various industries and regions. The workforce development issues in my electorate, which is surrounded by opportunities in the service, healthcare, education and research sectors, will be very different from those in electorates in areas where there is much more agriculture and mining. Second, it will focus on future workforce development planning. The workforce, as I have noted, is changing rapidly, and we need to look forward, not backwards. Finally, it will provide advice around apprenticeship and traineeship systems in Queensland.

I recently attended the school community industry partnership school leavers expo. I met many young people from my electorate who had decided that they wanted to pursue on-the-job educational opportunities. Whenever I talk to tradespeople they tell me that how we manage apprenticeships is crucial to the ongoing success of their business and their industry. I was pleased on Monday night to meet Jade from Holland Park, a former Cavendish Road High student who was nominated for an apprentice of the year award. I spoke with Jade, her mum and her employer. They told me how positive it had been for her to have the opportunity to pursue a trade in a field she loved, close to her home. We must carefully plan for the future of apprentices and trainees so that we can support not just individuals like Jade but also entire industries.

This bill is full of positive things for the future of our economy in this state. I cannot cover them all, but I would like to commend the minister on her leadership in this area. Part of being a leader is being prepared to listen and to seek advice. This bill demonstrates that the minister and the Palaszczuk government are serious about being leaders in this exciting and important area of our society and economy. I commend this bill to the House.