




Speech By
Hon. Leeanne Enoch

MEMBER FOR ALGERIE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Advance Queensland

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algerie—ALP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Science and Innovation) (10.01 am): It gives me great pleasure to update the House on the awarding of just over \$1 million through the Advance Queensland Knowledge Transfer Partnerships program. The Queensland government understands the importance of collaboration and skills to a vibrant, world-class innovation system. That is why on 3 September the Premier launched the Advance Queensland Knowledge Transfer Partnerships program, or KTP for short.

My announcement today creates 22 partnerships across six Queensland universities and small to medium sized enterprises. This is part of our suite of programs to drive greater collaboration between businesses and the research base and to help to create the knowledge based jobs of the future. These grants of up to \$50,000 allow small and medium sized enterprises to take on a graduate, bringing new ideas and technologies to projects designed to grow the business. Since we launched the program, the Australian Council of Learned Academies in its November report, *Translating research for economic and social benefit*, recommended that Australia adopt a version of the United Kingdom's knowledge transfer partnerships program. This program was identified globally as a leading practice measure to improve links between businesses and universities. Queensland is ahead of the game when it comes to encouraging innovation.

The first round of our KTP program closed on 6 November. We received 31 applications from across Queensland and they have been assessed by an external expert panel. The 22 successful partnerships will share in \$1.16 million worth of awards, excluding GST, in this first round of the KTP program. Of this, more than \$930,000 will go directly to businesses, with the remainder shared by universities for their mentoring and coordinating role. These companies will be progressing projects across a range of industry sectors including health care, agriculture, ICT and the digital economy, manufacturing, energy storage, education, property and construction, and resources. I look forward to sharing their outcomes with the House as the projects progress.

This program is a great example of how this government is working to strengthen Queensland's knowledge economy: harnessing opportunities to create jobs through science and innovation, and supporting businesses to develop new products and services that could help them remain globally competitive. Universities are continuing to work with SMEs across Queensland to form partnerships and applications for the upcoming rounds of this program. The next funding round closes on 29 January 2016. This is the Palaszczuk government's Advance Queensland initiative, delivering jobs now and jobs for the future.