




Speech By
Hon. Yvette D'Ath

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Skilling Queenslanders for Work

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (2.28 pm): I am thrilled to be able to update the House on the Palaszczuk government's commitment to training, skills and jobs for Queenslanders. I know that this news will also be welcomed by the people from the electorate of the Leader of the Opposition and electorates of all members in this chamber. During the last sitting, I confirmed the government was implementing our Working Queensland commitment, which is our blueprint for generating jobs and tackling unemployment. I am pleased to be able to update the House that since then the Premier and I have announced the rollout of the Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative. On Friday last week, I announced the opening of applications for the first funding round.

In 2015-16, \$60 million will be available under Skilling Queenslanders for Work, which will provide skills, training and jobs for up to 8,000 disadvantaged Queenslanders. That is part of the Queensland government's commitment to investing \$240 million over the next four years to fund local programs that support young and long-term unemployed Queenslanders—programs that give people the skills to work.

The new scope for Skilling Queenslanders for Work builds on its previous success—success that was highlighted by an independent evaluation undertaken by Deloitte Access Economics, success that delivered real skills for Queenslanders. The Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative has a new look, ensuring an integrated approach to employer engagement strategies, skills development and job creation opportunities. Tailored, community based support will be offered to young people, mature age job seekers, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, people with disabilities and people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds alongside strategies to assist people who are underutilised or underemployed.

Skilling Queenslanders for Work is characterised by clearly defined target groups, voluntary participation, individual pathways and an integrated mix of assistance and strong support for participants. Skilling Queenslanders for Work is supported by a statewide regional network, working closely with community organisations and local employers to determine local skills and entry level industry and labour needs.

I have been excited about the huge level of interest in the program from community organisations, not-for-profit organisations and registered training organisations. Information sessions have been organised in communities to make sure organisations, large and small, have the information they need to apply through the open process.

According to registration numbers and taking into account those who have already attended an information session, it is expected that more than 1,105 people will have attended information

sessions across the state. Please bear in mind that these are only the people who have registered to attend. I am advised that most sessions to date have been booked out and have had many additional unregistered participants attend.

Sessions are being held across South-East Queensland, with several sessions already having been held across the north and south sides of Brisbane, Logan, Ipswich, Moreton, the Gold Coast and Toowoomba. They are also being held in provincial and regional communities, including Roma, Gladstone, Rockhampton, Mackay, Townsville, Mount Isa and Cairns.

This government is serious about job creation right across the state. We are delivering on our commitment to support Queenslanders into the workforce by empowering them with the training and skills they need to get back on their feet and into the workforce.