




Speech By
Hon. Yvette D'Ath

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

Record of Proceedings, 19 May 2015

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Achievements

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (10.00 am): It is an honour to be part of a Labor government that is delivering important election commitments to the people of Queensland. In just three months the Palaszczuk Labor government has already delivered key achievements to support skills and jobs growth, to restore integrity and accountability to our system of government and to tackle organised crime right across this state.

As I have reported in this House previously, we have already launched Skilling Queenslanders for Work—with \$60 million being available in 2015-16. Skilling Queenslanders for Work will provide skills, training and jobs for up to 8,000 disadvantaged Queenslanders to help them get back into the workforce and provide for them and their families. Information sessions have been organised in communities right across the state to make sure organisations, large and small, have the information they need to apply through the open process. I am delighted that the sessions were so well attended, with over a thousand participants already attending. This great program not only helps the individuals who participate but also helps drive productivity and economic growth and helps strengthen communities right across this great state of Queensland.

I am also pleased that this government, and indeed this parliament, has already achieved some important milestones in the portfolio of Justice and Attorney-General. Our promised commission of inquiry into organised crime is already underway, headed by respected criminal barrister Michael Byrne QC. The commissioner will investigate the extent of organised crime in Queensland and focus on significant and emerging areas of concern because this government is serious about tackling organised crime, not just an easy headline.

I was privileged to introduce the first piece of legislation for this government and as a sign of the government's commitment to integrity in government it was legislation to restore accountability, openness and fairness to our democratic system. We have reduced the threshold for donation disclosure because Queenslanders deserve to know who is making large donations to candidates and political parties and how much they are donating.

We removed the backward attempt to make it harder for vulnerable Queenslanders to exercise their most basic right in our society—the right to vote. We have removed the unfair requirement for voter ID because we stand for a fairer and more open system of government that is inclusive of vulnerable Queenslanders. We have taken the first steps to restore integrity to the independent watchdog, the CCC. We have created a judicial like pension for the chair to attract the best and the brightest and we have started an open and proper process for recruitment.

We have reinstated the equitable briefing guidelines for barristers, removed the gag clauses from contracts with community legal centres and started the consultation for developing a protocol for

judicial appointments. In a broader sense, I am consulting widely and changing the way the Attorney-General works in this state. Slowly but surely we can remove the dark stain that is the legacy of the former occupant of this position. I wholeheartedly look forward to continuing to deliver the Palaszcuk government's election commitments over the next three years.