



Speech By  
**Hon. Yvette D'Ath**


**MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE**

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Record of Proceedings, 3 June 2015

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Skilling Queenslanders for Work**

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (2.26 pm): This government is continuing to give business the confidence it needs to invest in Queensland now by laying the foundations for the workforce of the future. We recognise that as our economy continues to grow the demand for suitably skilled workers also will rise across the state. Business can take heart that we are taking the steps vital to ensuring Queensland meets the challenge. Early in April, we announced that \$60 million would be allocated to deliver a reinstated Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative in 2015-16. We also announced that over the next four years the government would inject \$240 million in this exciting jobs focused initiative. Today, just two months later, I am pleased to announce that Skilling Queenslanders for Work is on track to deliver funding to community based organisations through its first funding round, which closes on 19 June.

One word can describe the community response to date: overwhelming. Department of Education and Training regional staff have delivered more than 22 information sessions throughout the state, addressing more than 1,400 people. The sessions were attended by community based organisations, local councils, schools, P&Cs and P&Fs, registered training organisations, government agencies and others. There have been more than 350 calls to the Training Queensland customer centre regarding Skilling Queenslanders for Work and departmental staff have also met or spoken with more than 450 organisations from regional and metropolitan areas. I am pleased to say that since we announced the new funding, the department's Skilling Queenslanders for Work information web page has been viewed more than 37,000 times.

Strong networks are once again being developed between our metropolitan and regional staff and our partners in this initiative—community based, not-for-profit organisations. Over its four-year time frame, we anticipate Skilling Queenslanders for Work will generate work for up to 32,000 disadvantaged Queenslanders who, after this essential funding had been cut by those opposite, faced the likelihood of remaining on unemployed queues for a very long time. I look forward to later this year reporting further on the success of the reinstated Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative. I encourage all members to speak with their community groups and remind them that applications close on 19 June.