




Speech By
Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

Record of Proceedings, 1 December 2016

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Back to Work Youth Boost

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (10.12 am): Today my government's efforts to create jobs in regional Queensland get another boost—a youth boost. The Back to Work Youth Boost doubles the existing Back to Work incentive to offer \$20,000 for regional businesses that hire an unemployed young person aged between 15 and 24. I know many of Queensland's regions are facing challenging economic conditions and are experiencing rates of unemployment higher than the state average. Unfortunately, it is often young people who are disproportionately affected during these hard times. That is why the Back to Work Youth Boost is so important.

From today, 1 December, eligible regional employers will be able to access a \$20,000 incentive if they hire an unemployed young person and keep them employed for at least one year. The Youth Boost has been strategically timed to coincide with the end of the school year and will end on 28 February next year. Getting your first job is a huge milestone that every young person should get to experience. We want young Queenslanders in the workforce developing their skills and contributing to their local communities. I encourage regional employers to act quickly and make the most of this opportunity to grow their business.

The Back to Work Regional Unemployment Package is already supporting more than 800 jobs across regional Queensland, with more than 400 regional employers accessing the scheme. More than 300 of the jobs supported are for long-term unemployed jobseekers who have been out of work for more than 12 months. Now with the Youth Boost we will be supporting jobs for young people specifically and helping to drive down regional youth unemployment. The Back to Work Youth Boost is yet another initiative from my government helping to create jobs and lower unemployment in Queensland.