



Speech By  
**Jarrold Bleijie**


**MEMBER FOR KAWANA**

---

Record of Proceedings, 10 May 2016

**MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST**

**Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance**

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (12.12 pm): I thank the honourable opposition leader, the member for Clayfield, for the honour that he has bestowed upon me to serve in this place as the shadow minister for employment, industrial relations, skills and training and as the shadow minister for fair trading. I am looking forward to working with the shadow Treasurer, who has just contributed to this debate, the member for Indooroopilly, as he is the shadow minister for small business. This shadow portfolio is about jobs, jobs, jobs for all Queenslanders. When I talk about jobs for all Queenslanders, I refer to my own family background and experience in this field. My family has a small-business background. For many years my parents owned a little camping store in Caloundra. They could not afford to employ anyone, so they worked there seven days a week. While they had the camping store open for people to enjoy their holidays, they watched everyone else go on holidays.

The skills and training element of this shadow portfolio is so important to the future of many young Queenslanders. My wife left school at a young age. She completed a school based traineeship and then worked for Elizabeth de Varga Exclusive Fashion. At that time we were dating—this was many years ago. I saw my wife complete a school based traineeship after she left school early and I am now honoured to have this role and get advice from my wife with respect to her school based apprenticeship and traineeship.

As I said, this shadow portfolio is about jobs—jobs that are not being created by a government that is not only asleep in parliament but also asleep at the wheel. The triggers for our economy, the driving forces of our economy, are on hold. Everything in Queensland is on hold and business confidence is at a low. There is no excuse for that other than we have a government, under the leadership of the honourable Premier, that does not have a clue what to do. The government does not know how to make sure it can get businesses investing in Queensland. It does not know how to put the spotlight on Queensland so that other investors in other jurisdictions can come to Queensland.

More people are moving to Victoria and New South Wales from Queensland than there are people moving from New South Wales and Victoria to Queensland. When I moved to Queensland, the situation was the complete reverse: people were fleeing New South Wales and Victoria and coming to this great state of Queensland, because they saw opportunities for their families and their young kids. But now, people are fleeing Queensland because they do not see those same opportunities. We have to make sure that we concentrate on providing those opportunities.

I look forward to tackling employment issues with the minister responsible for this portfolio, the member for Brisbane Central, Grace Grace, and the Attorney-General, who has the portfolio responsibility of Training and Skills. The Minister for Employment, Grace Grace, was asked about youth

unemployment. We would expect even an inexperienced minister to come up with a good line about a positive plan that the government has for youth unemployment. When asked about youth unemployment, we would not expect a minister to say—

Youth unemployment is always difficult to address. I don't know that there's much you can change structurally ... It's not new, it's been around a long time.

What confidence does that place in a young person who is trying to get a job? What confidence does it place in the 31 per cent of outback Queenslanders aged between 15 and 24 years who are currently out of work and looking for a job when the person whom they rely on to drive the economy, to drive businesses to grow in the state, says, 'We know you haven't got a job, but there's not much we can do about it'?

The LNP can do something about it. We can start where we left off with the economic policies of the former government that were working that, unfortunately, have been overturned. We have seen bureaucracies put back by the Labor government in this state. We have seen bureaucracies put back into the training sector. We have seen bureaucracies put pack into the employment sector. We have seen the establishment of ombudsmen. Labor's own reports and recommendations from when it was in government previously recommended abolishing those bodies. But the bureaucracies are coming back. The more the government concentrates on bureaucracies, fewer jobs are being created in the state of Queensland. More people are still fleeing Queensland than there are coming to Queensland.

The LNP wants Queensland moving again through providing skills, apprenticeships and traineeships to our young people. The Labor Party is not going to do that. Only the LNP will have the plans in place to be able to do that.

*(Time expired)*