




Speech By
Jarrold Bleijie

MEMBER FOR KAWANA

Record of Proceedings, 26 May 2016

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations, Performance

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (10.22 am): Just as you would not put Dracula in charge of the blood bank, you would not put an old union hack in charge of industrial relations in Queensland, but that is exactly what Premier Palaszczuk has done. She has put the member for Brisbane Central in charge of all industrial relations. There is only one group of people who benefit from that and it is union mates getting jobs in Queensland.

When a new minister is appointed the media generally ask the new minister what are their goals, what are their aspirations, what is their vision for industrial relations—what is the vision of the employment minister in the state. The minister would generally give a positive outlook of what she or he thinks is the future of employment in the state. The member for Brisbane Central says she has been misquoted and that she has been taken out of context when we say she said there was nothing to be done about youth unemployment so I thought the best way to settle the matter and to get it on the record was to table the entire media report. I quote from the report—

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

In response to that the Townsville mayor slammed the comments as not good enough. She said—

At this stage, for anyone to say what Grace Grace said, that is not the attitude, you've got to go in there,

Cairns mayor Bob Manning said Mrs Grace's comments were an 'admission of failure or not really trying'. I table a copy of that media report.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Courier-Mail*, dated 15 January 2016, titled 'Fall from Grace: Regions blast youth jobs stance' [786].

We know under this Minister for Employment our trend unemployment rate is 0.5 per cent higher than the national average. In all the other states and territories unemployment is going down: New South Wales 0.1; Victoria two per cent; South Australia; and Tasmania by 0.5 per cent. Queensland is up by 3.4 per cent. Is it any wonder that the employment minister comes in here completely asleep at the wheel and says she has been taken out of context. The minister was not taken out of context. They were her words. Those opposite do not have a plan for employment other than union mates getting jobs in Queensland. Youth unemployment is up again: from 11.6 per cent to 15 per cent. I table a copy of that.

Tabled paper: Document, undated, titled 'Palaszczuk promised to create jobs for young Qlders' [787].

I also table another document in relation to Labor's promised jobs for Queensland: unemployment up again 6.2 per cent to 6.5 per cent.

Tabled paper: Document, undated, titled 'Labor promised jobs for Qld but in April ...' [788].

Queensland lost 6,800 jobs. Today new figures will come out. Shame on the employment minister who is only considering jobs for union mates, not young Queenslanders.