



Speech By  
**Jarrold Bleijie**


**MEMBER FOR KAWANA**

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Record of Proceedings, 14 June 2016

**MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST**

**Jobs**

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (12.17 pm): Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk and the Labor government are asleep at the wheel when it comes to jobs in this state. This morning we heard the Premier talk about jobs, jobs, jobs. She said the budget being released this afternoon was going to be all about jobs. On the weekend in an article in the *Courier-Mail* it was stated that the big jobs package the Premier announced a year ago, which was Jobs Queensland with \$40 million over four years, has not even started. The response to the *Courier-Mail* was that it has been established and has an interim board looking at how they get people to serve on the board. How does it take eight months to set up Jobs Queensland, which is their big employment package? They cannot even get people to serve on the board of Jobs Queensland. Does it not show that there is a lack of confidence from the business community in this government? I put to the House that there is an interim board because they cannot get people to serve on the board of Jobs Queensland.

In the article from the *Courier-Mail*, which I will table, the spokesperson for the Attorney-General says—

The recruitment process for the permanent board is progressing and the Interim Reference Group will remain in place until that is finalised.

*Tabled paper:* Article from the *Courier-Mail*, dated 11 June 2016, titled 'Employment body yet to generate a single job despite \$40 million budget' [867].

Eight months ago legislation passed in the House to establish Jobs Queensland. In its budget for the last 12 months it had \$10 million to spend. No-one knows what it has spent the money on. No jobs have been created from Jobs Queensland. All we have seen is jobs created for mates.

**Mr Mander:** It is a headline.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** It is a headline; I take the interjection. About six months ago, the Premier threatened everybody in this House by saying, 'If you don't back my jobs plan, I am going to have an election'. Do members remember that? I table an article titled, 'Do as I say, not as I do', in which the Queensland Premier states that she will 'get the support of Queenslanders' if her jobs legislative agenda is blocked.

*Tabled paper:* Article from the *Brisbane Times* online, dated 10 March 2016, titled "'Do as I say, not as I do": Queensland Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk' [868].

Why does she need the support of Queensland when her own legislative agenda passed eight months ago and she has done nothing on it? An interim board is sitting there, but no jobs have been created in this state. All the time in this place Attorney-General D'Ath gets up and talks about skills, training, jobs and apprenticeships, and how Labor has the high moral ground for that sort of stuff. I have a news flash: I draw the attention of members to the 2015 Australian government NCVET traineeship and apprenticeship numbers. Members of the Labor Party might be surprised at this statistic: for December 2014 to September 2015, when the Labor government was in power, 30,000 apprenticeships

were created. Let us look at the last year of the former LNP government: for December 2013 to September 2014, 32,000 apprentices were appointed. In Queensland, apprenticeships have gone down, not up. Under the Labor Party and under the training and skills minister as well as the employment minister, the member for Brisbane Central, apprenticeships are on the decline. Yvette D'Ath stands in here and talks about all their plans for skills and training, yet according to government records apprenticeship numbers are on the decline. If we go back one step further, in December 2012 to September 2013, 44,000 apprenticeships were created. Apprenticeship numbers have gone from 44,000 to 32,000 to 30,000 under this government. That was their big election commitment. 'Jobs will be created under the government I lead', she said. It was all about jobs, jobs, jobs.

**Mr Mander:** The numbers speak for themselves.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** The numbers speak for themselves: apprenticeships are on the decline. I say to members opposite that they cannot take the high moral ground for apprenticeships and jobs in this state, because the numbers speak for themselves: apprenticeship numbers are on the decline and unemployment is up. As at April 2016, 66,800 young Queenslanders were unemployed and looking for work; and 21,300 young Queenslanders have lost their jobs, part-time and full-time, since the election. Young Queenslanders are not getting the jobs. The jobs are not being created by the Labor Party. The only jobs being created are to serve the Deputy Premier's mates in the union movement. They are the only jobs being created.

Under Grace Grace, the Minister for Employment, youth unemployment has risen from 11.6 per cent to 15 per cent. She should not be the Minister for Employment; she should be dubbed the minister for unemployment, because in her time as Minister for Employment all she has achieved is a skyrocketing 15 per cent figure for unemployment. This afternoon, we will see a budget that is all talk and rhetoric. We will see them get up and talk about jobs. We will see them try to defend apprenticeship numbers going down by 2,000. This government is asleep at the wheel.

*(Time expired)*