




Speech By
Jarrod Bleijie

MEMBER FOR KAWANA

Record of Proceedings, 15 June 2016

MOTION: YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (6.00 pm): I move—

That this House:

1. notes that at the 2015 election Labor promised to help young people develop practical skills to help them secure a job;
2. notes that 5,500 less apprenticeships, traineeships and school based apprenticeships and traineeships have been completed in 2015-16 under Labor;
3. notes that youth unemployment has increased under Labor;
4. notes that 1,800 less apprentices and trainees commenced in Labor's first nine months as opposed to the same period in 2014; and
5. condemns the Palaszczuk Labor government for its poor record on youth unemployment and apprenticeship and traineeship completions over the past year.

The reason we move this motion is that the Labor Party are all talk and no action on jobs. They promised during the 2015 election campaign that they would create all these jobs, but nothing has eventuated in the past 12 months—nothing but words and rhetoric.

In the government's own budget, which is only 24 hours old, they say that 5,500 fewer apprenticeships have been completed in the previous 12 months. That is in their own document. In a little while the Minister for Training and Skills will get up and say that they are creating jobs, that they believe in apprenticeships, that she was once a federal politician and that they had the same commitment to jobs back then. Their own budget shows the figures. The facts are in their own budget.

If members do not believe their own budget—the Minister for Skills likes to refer to federal things, because that is where she used to serve—they need only look at 'Apprentices and trainees 2015', the Australian vocational education and training statistics. They show that under the former LNP government traineeship commencements were 2,000 more than during the Labor Party's first year in government. I have heard time and time again the Minister for Training and Skills get up in this place and talk about all of these apprenticeships they are supporting. The fact is that they are not. The fact is that apprenticeships and traineeships are on the decline in Queensland. The fact is that those opposite do not have a plan to increase apprenticeships and traineeships—so much so that the former LNP government's apprenticeship pledge did not even rate a mention. Apprenticeships did not get anything in yesterday's package.

Those opposite talk about jobs, jobs, jobs but did not create any positions for apprenticeships. All they created—12 months ago—was the document *Jobs now, jobs for the future*. It outlines 'Major Working Queensland initiatives'. It refers to Jobs Queensland, which was to receive \$40 million over four years. It has not even started, although we hear it has a secretariat at Ipswich. The Premier said at the time that it was to give expert advice to the government. What have those opposite been doing for 12 months? They are asleep at the wheel. We know why. In 2014 the now Premier is quoted in an article as saying—

I'm not going to guarantee jobs growth.

The Premier said that when she was opposition leader. I table the article.

Tabled paper: Extract of article from the *Courier-Mail* online, dated 3 June 2014, titled 'Annastacia Palaszczuk insists she is focused on unearthing Queensland's next big growth industry' [944].

A year ago she made a threat. She said, 'If anyone stands in my way of job creation in this state, I am going to have an election.' No-one is standing in the Premier's way. She should go forth and prosper and create jobs. I table another document.

Tabled paper: Extract of article from the *Brisbane Times* online, dated 10 March 2016, titled "'Do as I say, not as I do': Queensland Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk" [945].

The statistics speak for themselves. I did a bit of research on YouTube. I searched 'the minister for skills and training, Ms Yvette D'Ath, member for Redcliffe'. The first YouTube clip that came up is titled 'Labor Drone & Gaffe Machine'. We know that, when asked the GST rate, Premier Palaszczuk did not know that Australia has a 10 per cent GST. I urge all honourable members to watch the video. Ms D'Ath, when she was a federal member, was asked what the deficit was. She said, 'I do not know what the deficit is.' Then, when she was parliamentary secretary to the climate change minister she was asked on national TV, 'What's the climate tax?' Her response was along the lines, 'Oh well, I think it's about \$24 but don't quote me on that. I'm not sure what it is.' The parliamentary secretary to the climate change minister did not know the rate of climate tax. She did not know what the deficit was.

I guess the minister will stand up in a minute and talk about figures and statistics. Minister, quote your own budget figures, which show that apprenticeships and traineeships are on the decline.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Kawana, I urge you to speak through the chair. Minister, I would urge you to not respond. You will have ample opportunity later on.

Mr BLEIJIE: This government and this minister are asleep at the wheel. Is it any wonder apprenticeships have not increased? The Commsec *State of the states* report states in reference to Queensland—

While third ranked on dwelling starts, it is bottom ranked on construction work and seventh ranked on economic growth.

Is it any wonder apprenticeships and jobs are on the decline in Queensland? Is it any wonder the business community has no confidence in this Minister for Skills, the Minister for Employment and this Labor government? They are asleep at the wheel. Only the LNP has the expertise—

(Time expired)