




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD

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MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Skilling Queenslanders for Work

 **Mr RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (12.29 pm): The Palaszczuk government is delivering on its election commitment to encourage economic activity and create jobs. Since the government was elected just over one year ago, over 70,000 jobs have been created in Queensland. The people of the Moreton Bay region are set to benefit further from a massive injection of funding from the Palaszczuk government's very popular Skilling Queenslanders for Work program.

With almost \$4 million in funding for 16 regional programs, almost 700 jobseekers in the Moreton Bay region will benefit. Queensland-wide, more than 5,900 Queensland jobseekers are set to benefit from this round of funding from the Palaszczuk government's Skilling Queenslanders for Work program. Statewide, more than \$30 million will be provided to community groups in this funding round to support skill development, training and job opportunities for unemployed, disengaged or disadvantaged people.

We know that the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program has a proven track record of delivering real employment opportunities for Queenslanders. We just have to look at the evaluation report by Deloitte Access Economics on the program which showed that, for every dollar invested in the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program, it generated nearly \$8 in return. But, Madam Deputy Speaker, as you would be aware, despite all of this evidence, the LNP when they were in government still callously axed this program. What a disgraceful thing to do to Queenslanders.

The evidence shows that the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program pays for itself and helps thousands of Queenslanders into the workforce. This is good news for our economy and good news for our state. Our Skilling Queenslanders for Work program is an initiative that is worth \$60 million each year over four years and it is going to deliver immediate benefits to communities throughout Queensland. We want to ensure that, no matter where they live, all Queenslanders can access job training and employment opportunities.

Our Skilling Queenslanders for Work program has a strong focus on developing skills to match current and future industry needs and is specifically tailored for local programs that support young and long-term unemployed Queenslanders on the pathway into work. Our Skilling Queenslanders for Work program puts communities in partnership with government to grow local employment opportunities, encourage greater social inclusion and assist people who need extra support to enter the workforce.

However, where the Palaszczuk government is focused on creating jobs for Queenslanders, the opposition are obsessed with their own jobs. It is this obsession which is tearing them apart. Just last week we have seen a failed leadership coup. We have seen the member for Chatsworth sacked as deputy opposition whip, although a little birdie told me that the member for Chatsworth actually tried to resign twice to the Leader of the Opposition last Wednesday night but the Leader of the Opposition lacked the courage to accept the member for Chatsworth's resignation at that time.

We have also seen the opposition tearing themselves apart over whether the Leader of the Opposition will have the courage to sack his chief of staff. We have seen them tear themselves apart over who would be the chair of the PCCC. We are seeing them tear themselves apart over the ambitions of the member for Callide and the member for Toowoomba South to move into the federal parliament, and we are seeing them tear themselves apart over the ambition of the member for Everton and last week's failed leadership coup.

I note that in today's *Courier-Mail* Steven Wardill claims that the botched LNP coup to install the member for Everton as the Leader of the Opposition follows the Monty Python story the *Life of Brian*. Wardill claims that the disciples of the member for Everton, the coup leaders, did indeed mistake the member for Everton for the Messiah, although, as we have heard this morning, I think the member for Everton would much prefer to describe himself as the next Mike Baird. Just like Brian in the *Life of Brian*, the member for Everton is not the Messiah or the next Mike Baird; he is just a naughty, naughty boy.

However, there is much more to this story than has currently been told. If the rumours are true—if what the little birdies are telling me is true—I hear that the member for Everton and the member for Clayfield recently had discussions about leadership change. The Leader of the Opposition must be worried that his days are numbered.