



Speech By  
**Hon. Shannon Fentiman**


**MEMBER FOR WATERFORD**

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Record of Proceedings, 18 February 2016

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Community Services, Jobs**

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Communities, Women and Youth, Minister for Child Safety and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (9.54 am): The Palaszczuk government knows employment is a critical pathway to improved outcomes for individuals and communities, and that is why we have a clear and unwavering focus on jobs. The community services industry is one of Queensland's largest employers, and workforce demands are increasing. Community services not only help us connect with one another; they provide support and jobs. In fact, they are the backbone of our community. That is why it is crucial that we support them to continue their great work. My department funds hundreds of these organisations to provide vital services to Queenslanders, especially those who are most vulnerable. Queensland's health and community services industries are one of our state's fastest growing and most dynamic industries. They are one of our state's largest employers, accounting for nearly one in four new Queensland jobs. In fact, it is predicted that the community services industry will create at least 20,000 jobs over the next decade.

This is why we need a clear, targeted approach to meet this workforce demand. My department has already done some preliminary work with the sector around industry capability and we are working hard to ensure we build and deliver diverse and viable services in partnership with the sector. Firstly, we are partnering with the Community Services Industry Alliance to commission a future state forecast of the industry. This report, which I look forward to launching with the alliance very soon, will provide a future-facing analysis of the community services industry and help identify key priorities, including jobs and skills. In September last year I opened the Community Services 2025 Forum with more than 100 industry stakeholders to kick-start the development of a community services, jobs, skills and industry strategy. Since then, I am pleased to see that almost 450 service providers, corporate and social enterprise representatives, academics and government employees have contributed ideas to inform this strategy. Once finalised, the strategy will make a significant contribution to our government's broader jobs agenda.

Additionally, we are adopting longer term contracts to ensure that our community organisations have some certainty to plan and build sustainable organisations. Last year we signed our first five-year service agreement and since then we have signed six more. Every time I meet with community organisations they have told me how refreshing it has been for them to be able to voice their concerns as well as their vision for the future, because I want Queensland's social services to be even more capable, sustainable and connected and to provide rewarding jobs and careers. All of these organisations provide jobs for Queenslanders and vital support for the vulnerable and I am committed to strengthening this sector as it grows.