




Speech By
Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe

MEMBER FOR SANDGATE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, Jobs and Training

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Transport and the Commonwealth Games) (10.02 am): Delivering jobs and skilling Queenslanders for work has consistently been the highest priority of the Palaszczuk government. It is also one of the most important legacy benefits being delivered through the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games. The Commonwealth Games venues program is boosting employment opportunities and providing economic stimulus in the short term. It is also playing a valuable role in training the next generation of workers, giving them the tools for success in the future. More than 5,700 workers have already played a role in delivering the \$320 million infrastructure package for venues. There are currently more than 860 workers employed across all of the venue and game village sites, contributing to strong jobs growth on the Gold Coast, with annual local employment up by 5.4 per cent over the last year to March.

All of our new venue construction projects are committed to training and apprenticeships, leaving a lasting benefit to trainees and the wider construction industry in Queensland. That is the story of the Palaszczuk government's investment in the Gold Coast. Significant training has also been delivered, with over 33,000 hours at the Gold Coast Aquatic Centre and over 9,500 hours at the Queensland State Velodrome project here in Brisbane.

There are lots of great individual success stories of local businesses creating jobs and training opportunities to help deliver games venues—like the Staplyton family business Alltype Welding, which has hired 20 staff, including two apprentices, to work on the Coomera Indoor Sports Centre project. In March I was delighted to meet students from the Gold Coast School of Construction who had just completed their certificate I of construction, gaining real-world experience on the world-class Parklands project which will become home to the games village in 2018. As part of the Department of Education and Training funded program conducted in partnership with site developer Grocon, students assisted in the fit-out of their own dedicated training facility by constructing desks and external covered areas and some outdoor timber chairs that all of the workers are enjoying.

Games host broadcaster NEP Australia, the country's leading provider of outsourced television production services, will also provide training for 200 local college and university students. Games sponsor Griffith University is giving up to 500 students the opportunity to intern with the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games Corporation, the games delivery partners and contractors in the lead-up to and during the games. This will give these students real experience working on the largest sporting event in Australia this decade. As members can see, all of these projects are delivering jobs and skilling Queenslanders, providing tangible outcomes and a lasting legacy for our state.

In the 15 months since the election, the Palaszczuk government has overseen almost double the number of jobs created in Queensland compared to the entire three-year term of the LNP. Our strong employment growth is clear evidence that confidence in Queensland's economy is returning after the

three years wasted when our jobless rate hit 7.1 per cent. The Palaszczuk government is committed to delivering a great—indeed, a memorable—Commonwealth Games and in the process providing great employment and training opportunities for young Queenslanders so that we can build confidence and a strong economy into the future.