



Speech By  
**Tarnya Smith**


**MEMBER FOR MOUNT OMMANEY**

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**MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST**

**Australian Space Design Competition; Hear and Say Centre; Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance**

 **Mrs SMITH** (Mount Ommaney—LNP) (12.16 pm): In National Science Week for 2016 I wanted to talk about the importance of supporting our own home-grown ideas in science, innovation and entrepreneurship and the need to do what we can to help turn those ideas into reality. Yesterday I had the pleasure of welcoming students to Parliament House who had recently returned from NASA as part of the Australian Space Design Competition, with the member for Mansfield and the Leader of the Opposition joining me. Twelve students from four schools across Queensland, including students from Corinda State High in my electorate of Mount Ommaney, recently travelled to the Kennedy Space Center in Florida to compete in the International Space Settlement Design Competition. What an absolute fantastic opportunity for these students, some as young as years 9 and 10. This 30-year-old global event has 200 student competitors from every continent on the earth and sees the students form fictional engineering companies and design futuristic space stations. They were finalists at the Australian Space Design Competition, which for 11 years has been encouraging STEM development and business skills in Australian students.

I also recently had the pleasure of visiting the Hear and Say centre at Ashgrove, one of the leading paediatric auditory, verbal and cochlear implant centres in the world that has specialised in teaching our children who are deaf to hear, listen and speak using a world-leading end-to-end service delivery model. Hear and Say is a not-for-profit organisation that was established here in Queensland in 1992 by Dr Dimity Dornan AO and provides services and programs to over 2,000 children, young adults and families across six centres including audiology, verbal therapy, occupational therapy and school hearing screening. Queensland is leading the world in this field and being born deaf no longer means it is a disability with the technology that is being implemented here in Queensland. In government the LNP recognised this vital work that is being done at the Hear and Say centre and contributed \$2 million to the new premises in Nathan Avenue. We also committed at the election to support Hear and Say by providing an additional \$2 million—\$500,000 per annum over four years—from 1 July 2015 for additional services and extending the Hear and Say service agreement with Queensland Health for an additional three years, giving it funding certainty until 2019.

The LNP supports innovation and advancing Queensland through investment in home-grown ideas and entrepreneurship, not handing out taxpayer funded subsidies to multinational conglomerates that are not based here, do not pay tax here and are likely to support jobs in their own home countries or somewhere else offshore. In estimates, it was revealed that, to date, the government's Advance Queensland program, the centrepiece to the government's whole focus on the budget this year, which

originally had a price tag of over \$180 million over three years, has created only 121 direct jobs. That is a cost of over \$500,000 a job. Is that value for money? Is that value for Queensland taxpayer dollars? I think not.

The government and, in particular, the minister continues to say that this is about creating jobs now and jobs in the future. It is not even about creating jobs now, as we have found out. How can Queenslanders have faith that it will create jobs in the future? I can tell members that the people in my electorate and many other parts of the state to whom I have spoken do not care about start-ups from Silicon Valley or innovation being the new buzzword from the government; they care about the local plumber or the mechanic who wants to know about how the so-called innovation agenda will benefit them.

Despite the fact that there were significant underspends in the 2015-16 budget of some \$35 million, as part of this year's budget the government saw fit to expand the Advance Queensland program, known as Accelerating Advance Queensland, to be the centrepiece of its 2016 state budget. Only 121 jobs have been created.

*(Time expired)*