




Speech By
Hon. Yvette D'Ath

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

Record of Proceedings, 23 February 2016

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Skilling Queenslanders for Work

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (9.56 am): Last Friday I was pleased to announce the results of the second funding round of the reinstated Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative. I was delighted to make the announcement with the member for Murrumba at one of our fantastic community based organisations.

Some 183 projects worth around \$30 million will be delivered across Queensland that will provide nationally recognised training, skills development and job opportunities to over 5,900 unemployed and underemployed Queenslanders. Community sector driven projects will be delivered from Atherton in the Far North of this great state, Townsville in the north, Dalby on the Darling Downs, Cherbourg in the South Burnett, Rockhampton in Central Queensland, Maroochydore on the Sunshine Coast, Ipswich and Logan, down to Beaudesert and the Gold Coast. It is very satisfying to see the coverage and how many locations where changes will be made to people's lives by giving them a chance to gain skills and work in their local communities. We have been committed to bringing back this initiative and, just over a year later, we are already training people, supporting people and ensuring they have employability skills that lead to jobs.

The next round of funding, for 2016-17 projects, is now open, with \$60 million available again in 2016-17. Applications will close on 7 April 2016. All up, in 2015-16 we have committed around \$60 million across the suite of programs that make up Skilling Queenslanders for Work. We are already seeing the impact of this worthwhile investment as people progress through the local programs.

Applications for funding can now be made via a new online application portal. Eligible organisations can apply for program funding in a secure, cloud based environment. One of the key features of the new application process is that users will access information securely at any time and from any device. Mr Speaker, to see for yourself or to encourage local community organisations to apply, you can visit the department's website at www.training.qld.gov.au/sqw.