



Speech By  
**Hon. Yvette D'Ath**


**MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE**

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Record of Proceedings, 25 February 2016

**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**Palaszczuk Labour Government, Achievements**

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (10.19 am): I rise to talk about the positive difference that the Palaszczuk Labor government is making in people's lives through the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program and how that is in direct contrast to what the LNP did when it was in government. We just heard the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, who is obviously wearing rose-coloured glasses, talking about what they did over three years in relation to the economy and jobs. He made no mention of the thousands of jobs that were lost through the Public Service. To this day in our communities some of those people are still unemployed and are still struggling. He made no mention whatsoever about the programs that they cut, such as Skilling Queenslanders for Work, and the job losses in our communities as a consequence. I am pleased to talk about this program that the previous government scrapped despite the reports that showed the success it was having and the benefits to the economy, if we want to talk about economic benefits. Firstly, let us talk about the people. In the past year, more than 8,000 participants have been helped through the \$60 million we have invested and I want to mention some of the specific programs that have benefitted.

Under round 1 of funding, the Gidarjil Sea Rangers project was awarded \$168,000 for 10 participants to be paid as Work Skills trainees for 26 weeks. Those participants will work to achieve a certificate 1 in conservation and land management. They will focus on cleaning up and restoring degraded areas and cultural sites and monitoring sites of Aboriginal and cultural significance identified in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. This valuable project involves a collaborative approach, working with local catchment groups and other relevant environmental stakeholders, including the Boyne Valley Catchment Working Group, the Fitzroy Basin Association, the Gladstone Region Environmental Advisory Network, Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and the World Wildlife Fund.

We also have wonderful programs in Townsville. The Townsville Intercultural Centre is delivering a project to assist 100 culturally and linguistically diverse people with new skills to enhance their employability in a competitive Australian job market. In Stretton, the Karawatha program has received more than \$194,000 to assist 10 Queenslanders with disabilities to utilise the 'place first then train' model, which focuses on training in a real-life environment. Participants will be employed as trainees with Break Thru People Solutions and will work on special community projects at the Stoddart Manufacturing plant.

I acknowledge all the businesses that are partnering with our training organisations and the reregistered training organisations themselves. TAFE is also playing a very big part. The Redcliffe Youth Space, which has just received funding, is partnering with Redcliffe TAFE. That is what governments do: they step up, they support the most vulnerable and they support jobs in our community.