




Speech By
Hon. Yvette D'Ath

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

Record of Proceedings, 15 June 2016

MOTION: YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (6.26 pm): I certainly speak against this motion. It is disappointing that the shadow training and skills minister could not even speak for a whole five minutes on training. He had to go off and try to do some sort of grubby act and dig up any past stuff on me that he could find, because he could not even speak for a whole five minutes on training and skills. So I say: well done for that.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: One moment, Minister. Pause the clock. Member for Kawana, you have had a good go.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Let me finish. Minister, I would ask you to come back to the motion.

Mrs D'ATH: As we know, the former attorney-general loves to quote figures. We heard it a lot when he was attorney-general. He used to throw figures around all the time. He used to cherrypick figures out of anywhere.

Mr Bleijie: Your budget delivered yesterday—your budget, by your Treasurer; your figures.

Mrs D'ATH: I refer this House to the budget and to the figures that the member for Kawana is quoting. Of course, as the member for Kawana does so well, he fails to then take the House to the note that is attached to the decline of those figures. The note says—

Mr Bleijie: The fine print.

Mrs D'ATH: The member for Kawana might want to read the fine print.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Kawana, you are warned under standing order 253A. I want to hear the minister.

Mr SEENEY: I rise to a point of order. The minister is quite clearly attacking the member for Kawana.

Mr SPEAKER: Resume your seat. There is no point of order.

Mr BLEIJIE: I rise to a point of order. I find the comments by the minister offensive and I ask her to withdraw.

Mr SPEAKER: Thanks. That is what you could have done earlier. Minister, will you withdraw?

Mrs D'ATH: I withdraw. I refer to the budget papers. The member for Kawana failed to take the House to the following—

The target reflects the national trend of significant reductions in traineeships following a decrease in Commonwealth incentives for traineeships and a reduction in the number of traineeships opportunities in the job market. Overall vocational student numbers have increased since 2014-15 suggesting alternate Commonwealth and State-funded programs, including the Queensland Government subsidised Certificate 3 Guarantee program, are being chosen by students.

Let us also look at the LNP's actual outcomes when they were in government, not just cherry-picking certain figures. Under the LNP the apprenticeship commencements fell by 14,000 in the same period in 2013, dropping from 58,400 to 44,400, and another 12,400 in the same period in 2014. The member for Kawana also conveniently ignores the number of apprentices actually in training. There were 96,300 apprentices in training when the LNP came to office. By the time they left office this number had fallen to 68,600. That is 28,000 fewer apprentices in training than when they started.

We heard the member for Burnett talking about the importance of infrastructure investment, yet their only investment in infrastructure was 1 William Street. There were no other new projects. This government is committing to works right across this state. As members know, we have also committed to supporting up to 32,000 participants through Skilling Queenslanders for Work, a program those opposite scrapped.

I am very pleased that there are people on that side who are very supportive of this program. The member for Burnett has actually been out recently talking about his community.

Opposition members interjected.

Mrs D'ATH: Sorry, the member for Burdekin. My apologies, I correct the record. It would be nice to hear the minister for Burnett recognise this program himself.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, through the chair, please.

Mrs D'ATH: The member for Burnett said there were no plans to deal with training or jobs by this government. However, in the *Bowen Independent* on 15 June this year an article stated—

A job readiness and life skills program co-ordinated and run by the Bowen PCYC has received accolades from the Department of Education and training and local politicians.

Who could they be? The article continues—

There are plenty of opportunities for all of the graduates to take part in upcoming programs. It's important smaller communities such as Bowen have the necessary support services and programs in place to ensure the same level of support.

It goes on to talk about the training opportunities that are available through this program. Thank you to the member for Burnett—sorry, the member for Burdekin—for acknowledging the importance of this program.

Mr BENNETT: I rise to a point of order.

Mrs D'ATH: I corrected the record, Mr Speaker.

Mr SPEAKER: What is your point of order, member for Burnett?

Mr BENNETT: Could you correct the record, please, through the chair?

Mr SPEAKER: No, what is your point of order? Do you find something offensive and ask for it to be withdrawn?

Mr BENNETT: I find the comments offensive and I ask for them to be withdrawn. It is not me, sir.

Mrs D'ATH: I withdraw.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Members, I am trying to hear the minister. Minister?

Mrs D'ATH: The member for Burdekin recognises the importance of Skilling Queenslanders for Work, as do others on that side who have also been out there talking about it.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Whitsunday, you are warned under standing order 253A for your disorderly conduct.

Mrs D'ATH: Obviously the member for Burnett is offended by the member for Burdekin supporting a government program. This government is investing in training and skills. We are proud of our investment. We will stand up for students and for our training centres in the state, unlike those opposite.