




Speech By
Hon. Yvette D'Ath

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

Record of Proceedings, 9 November 2016

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Skilling Queenslanders for Work

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (2.40 pm): Today it gives me great pleasure to announce that a significant milestone—that being 10,000 participants—for the highly successful Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative has been not only achieved last month but exceeded. October figures show that we have surpassed this figure, with 11,137 people having been assisted through Skilling Queenslanders for Work. These 11,137 participants have now commenced training and have either gained or are in the process of gaining the skills and confidence to help them get a job. This is an outstanding achievement and should be celebrated. Further, over 3,500 of these participants have already secured jobs as a direct result of Skilling Queenslanders for Work.

People in jobs is what the Palaszczuk government is all about. These Skilling Queenslanders for Work participants are real people who need extra support to undertake training and are completing qualifications and are on a pathway to gaining jobs in their local communities. Mr Speaker, after talking to participants on projects, I can tell you that this initiative has a direct impact on Queenslanders' lives. I also wish to congratulate the community sector as they are a key cornerstone to the ongoing success of this initiative.

Skilling Queenslanders for Work continues to impress, with latest participation trends showing that those most in need are being assisted—63 per cent are youth aged 15 to 24 years old, 18 per cent are migrants and refugees from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, 18 per cent identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, 51 per cent are long-term unemployed and 14 per cent are mature aged 45 years and over.

Not only has Skilling Queenslanders for Work assisted 11,137 Queenslanders; it is also achieving strong outcomes, with 55 per cent of exited participants so far achieving a positive outcome of being in employment, returning to school or going on to further training or a combination of these outcomes. We know from previous experience that this outcome percentage will grow, with over 60 per cent of people expected to be in employment after 12 months.

So far we have committed \$97 million, which is funding community driven training projects, skills development and direct job creation through traineeship opportunities. We also know from the Deloitte Access Economic evaluation of Skilling Queenslanders for Work in 2012 that more than this amount will be returned to the economy once the participants gain jobs. Finally, it is my pleasure that I have the opportunity today to demonstrate 11,137 very good reasons why it was so critical that we reinstated Skilling Queenslanders for Work.