




Speech By
Christopher Whiting

MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA

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PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Skilling Queenslanders for Work

 **Mr WHITING** (Murrumba—ALP) (2.52 pm): Today I want to talk about how the Palaszczuk government is putting young people in Deception Bay into jobs, work and training and that is through the incredibly successful Skilling Queenslanders for Work program. Traditionally, Deception Bay has had a higher than average rate of youth unemployment. I have talked to many of these young people—they have good hearts—and all they want is a break. Since becoming the local MP, I have made it a priority to get our local kids the training and the opportunities they deserve to get a job.

The figures on how we are bringing young people into the workforce through Skilling Queenslanders for Work programs in Deception Bay and the local area are incredible and speak for themselves. The outcome for Murrumba as at 30 June 2017 are: 482 people exited a Skilling Queenslanders for Work project, 68 have gone on to further training and 323 have got jobs through Skilling Queenslanders for Work. That is 323 young Queenslanders with that opportunity. The total Skilling Queenslanders for Work commitment to Murrumba to date has been: 23 projects with total funding of \$4.5 million.

I want to pay tribute to the Deception Bay Community Youth Programs and the Deception Bay Neighbourhood Centre. Deception Bay Community Youth Programs have put 156 people through their programs, 86 people have secured employment as at May 2017. The neighbourhood centre has put 149 people through their programs, and 59 people have got jobs through their programs.

At a recent graduation ceremony at Deception Bay Community Youth Programs I presented certificates to a group of young men who had received a certificate I in Conservation and Land Management. The Deception Bay Community Youth Programs are currently running a work skills traineeship called Busi Events, where the participants are doing a certificate I in business administration. The first group had 11 participants graduate, with five transitioning straight into employment and two going straight into university. Soon DBCYP will be running a program training young men and women through a course run by the Queensland Agricultural Training College revegetating and clearing noxious weeds in Hayes Inlet and the local national park. That is a tremendous opportunity for these young people.

These people would not have had their life turned around if not for the Palaszczuk Labor government because we brought this program back. We brought it back after it was cut by the LNP. They cut a program that creates real job opportunities and training for people in Deception Bay. These people would simply have been left behind if the LNP were still in government. I say to the opposition: what is their position on Skilling Queenslanders for Work? What would they be prepared to do if they got into government?

Mr Bleijie: We're keeping it.

Mr WHITING: Would they have been silent on it?

Mr Bleijie: I just said we're keeping it.

Mr WHITING: Is this one of their promises like that the public servants would have nothing to fear? They are keeping it? We will believe that when we see it.

(Time expired)