



Speech By  
**Hon. Grace Grace**


**MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL**

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Record of Proceedings, 15 June 2017

**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**Employment**

 **Hon. G GRACE** (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (10.18 am): I love it when the member for Kawana gets up in this place and expects people to think that he makes any sense. Does he really believe that someone who the LNP hid away for six months before and during the last election comes here with any credibility? If there is any con job in this House at the moment, it is those opposite trying to convince Queenslanders that they care about jobs. These are the members who, in government, sacked 14,000 public servants and community organisation workers. Do members know where they started? With the nurses at Townsville Hospital.

The Palaszczuk Labor government's Back to Work program is the leading jobs program in Australia. It has exceeded all expectations and the numbers speak for themselves. I remember the member for Kawana saying it will never work, it will fail, it will not deliver any jobs. Well, he is 4,841 reasons wrong. That is the number of people who are in jobs because of Back to Work. Not only that, we have another 800 or so applications pending, which means that we are well over the 5,500 jobs created during this program in less than 12 months. What is fantastic about this program is that the number of young jobseekers are now exceeding the number of ordinary jobseekers in numbers being employed. In nine months the Youth Boost has been an outstanding success and has exceeded all expectations.

We have injected \$25 million into regional Queensland and \$70 million will be paid over the next 12 months. Because of that success we are now extending it into South-East Queensland to help the long-term unemployed. This is a program that is designed magnificently. This is a program that employers absolutely love. This is a program that is delivering people into jobs and giving them an opportunity. All we have from those opposite is carping upon carping. Let me tell the member for Kawana that, if he thinks anyone takes him seriously with his crocodile tears worrying about jobs in regional Queensland or worrying about jobs in the south-east corner, he should not kid himself any further. Let me put him out of his misery. Nobody believes him. Nobody gives him any credibility. The Leader of the Opposition was the treasurer who sacked 14,000 public servants and that will haunt him for the rest of his life.