



Speech By  
**Hon. Grace Grace**


**MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL**

---

Record of Proceedings, 12 October 2017

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Safe Work Month**

 **Hon. G GRACE** (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (10.13 am): Last week I officially launched Safe Work Month at a free breakfast in Brisbane's King George Square that was attended by hundreds of city workers. The breakfast included plenty of giveaways and information, fitness demonstrations and health checks, but it had a serious message: that workplace safety must be a priority for every Queenslanders.

Queensland Safety Ambassador Shane Webcke, Mental Health Ambassador Libby Trickett and Asbestos Safety Ambassador Trevor Gillmeister were also there to spread the message about workplace safety and together with Julie Goodwin we cooked a mean breakfast. Shane, Libby and Trevor are passionate about safe, healthy workplaces. As we all know, Shane and Trevor lost their fathers to work related incidents and Libby has her own story of how mental illness can stop you in your tracks.

Safe Work month reminds us that we can all do a little more to keep ourselves and our workmates safer. It is not just workers who benefit. A safe, healthy workforce is also good for a business's bottom line. Employers appreciate that, and they also appreciate that in Queensland they pay the lowest workers compensation premiums in the country and that businesses will not pay a cent in WorkCover premiums on the apprentices they hire, saving thousands.

We continue to work closely with businesses that have a high injury rate to look at ways to improve safety. We have been working with doctors and employers to get injured employees back on the job as soon as possible. To help with this, last week we launched our Getting Back campaign. It has a simple but powerful message for workers, employers and medical professionals: that work itself plays a vital role in the injury rehabilitation process.

Safe Work Month will see activities such as safety breakfasts, toolbox talks and workplace barbecues run out across the state in nine regional centres. Next week we will honour those who are excelling at the Safe Work and Return to Work Awards ceremony and the day after will host the Injury Prevention and Return to Work Conference. Everybody deserves to come home safely at the end of each working day, which is the clear message being spread during Safe Work Month.