



Speech By  
**Hon. Grace Grace**

**MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL**

---

Record of Proceedings, 2 March 2017

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Back to Work Program, Youth Boost**

 **Hon. G GRACE** (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (9.53 am): I welcome the Premier's announcement that the \$20,000 Back to Work Youth Boost will be extended to the end of October 2017. The Youth Boost has been a fantastic success story in its first three months of operation—365 jobseekers have been hired under the Youth Boost to date and there are a further 537 Youth Boost applications pending. What a great outcome! In just three months 902 young jobseekers are now back to work in regional Queensland thanks to the Youth Boost. A further 1,440 jobseekers have been hired under the original Back to Work categories, with a further 250 pending applications. This means that, in total, almost 2,600 Queenslanders are back to work thanks to this program, with more applications coming in every day.

I have travelled widely throughout regional Queensland and seen first-hand the benefits the Back to Work program is delivering in Townsville, where Tanya Wright and Chandell Durham have found work at local business Experience Works; at Living Colour in the Tropics Gift Shop in Cairns, where Tanya Primrose is back to work; in Rockhampton, where long-term unemployed jobseeker Justin Leonard has found work with local engineering business All Pump Repairs. Justin had been doing it tough and was struggling to find work, but thanks to Back to Work he is now on a new career path. What a fantastic outcome!

Stories just like it are being repeated all over regional Queensland: in Bundaberg, where car detailers Rob and Robbie have been taken on as car detailers at Bundaberg Motor Group thanks to Back to Work; in Gladstone, where Lisa Crosser has been taken on by Lee Crane Hire; in Mackay, where Mobile Screen Repairs has used Back to Work to hire a new worker to help grow their business; in Emerald, where Sean Eldridge has found work at CQ Body Worx Auto. After struggling to find work in coastal Queensland, Sean moved his entire family to Emerald for his new job and he has not looked back since. Back to Work is also supporting jobs in Warwick, with Jhina Sutton finding work at Darryl Evans Real Estate and Brenton Giblin-Lloyd getting back to work with Lister Irrigation.

These are but a few of the great success stories of Back to Work. They are real employees, real jobs and real opportunities delivering a real boost to regional economies. If you are a regional Queensland employer, I urge you get behind our Back to Work program, hire a jobseeker and help grow your business. You now have until October 2017 to access the Youth Boost so go out and hire a young worker.