



Speech By  
**Hon. Grace Grace**

**MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL**

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Record of Proceedings, 24 May 2017

**PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS**

**Back to Work Program**

 **Hon. G GRACE** (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (2.56 pm): I stand here today as a proud representative of those good, coffee-sipping people who live in the inner-city electorate of Brisbane Central. Today I have good news for Queensland. We have achieved another milestone. I am pleased to inform the House that more than 4,000 regional Queenslanders are now back to work, thanks to our \$100 million Back to Work program. To be exact, 4,017 people have been directly employed throughout regional Queensland due to this program. Over 2,000 of those are young people in the regions.

Those opposite are convincing no Queenslanders with their crocodile tears about jobs in this state. The previous government sacked 14,000 public servants, but it did not stop there. Do members remember all of those community organisations that were defunded? Many jobs were lost when those community organisations lost their funding and were gagged from raising any concerns. Those opposite have a lot of front to cry crocodile tears and think they are convincing anybody. If you have to show leadership, you show leadership in the right way. If we talk about deals and if we talk about straddling—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** We will pause the clock until we have silence.

**Ms GRACE:** Talk about straddling the barbed wire fence! The Leader of the Opposition is an expert at that. He has been asked time and time again in this House to come clean about any deals with One Nation and he has refused.

**Mr Sorensen** interjected.

**Ms GRACE:** You know you are doing well when you hear the shrill from Hervey Bay! Time and time again we have asked the Leader of the Opposition to come into this House to say that there is no deal with One Nation, but he will not rule it out. They come in here crying crocodile tears about jobs. The only jobs they are interested in are their own, but they are not fooling any Queenslanders with their talk. Show some leadership! The Premier showed leadership on jobs. We are creating jobs in regional Queensland. We will have a budget that will create even more jobs and the Leader of the Opposition has an opportunity to stand up and rule out a deal with One Nation. Come on: rule it out now! Get up on your feet; say it now!

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** No. Thank you, members. I think you are finished, Minister.

**Ms GRACE:** I am not finished; I have seven seconds on the clock.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** All right, members. Let us get back to work. Minister, you have seven seconds left.

**Ms GRACE:** Our program has injected \$20 million so far into regional communities and \$53 million is on its way.

*(Time expired)*