




Speech By
Hon. Grace Grace

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Record of Proceedings, 10 August 2017

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Achievements

 **Hon. G GRACE** (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (10.01 am): Unlike those opposite, jobs will always come first under a Palaszczuk Labor government. We went to the election promising jobs and that is what we are delivering. We have delivered 77,300 new jobs since the state election in January 2015. We are investing \$177.5 million in the Back to Work jobs support program, which has already delivered 6,279 new Queensland jobs, with more on the way. We support the creation of jobs. All those opposite are ever interested in is a cut, sack and sell approach.

Also honouring our election commitments, we have restored the rights of injured workers to access common law rights, which now enables miners suffering from black lung to claim common law damages denied to them under the LNP. Additionally, we will ensure coal workers with any concerns about coal workers' pneumoconiosis can access a medical examination through our WorkCover scheme. We have introduced provisions that deem certain diseases for firefighters to be work related and implemented a National Injury Insurance Scheme for those catastrophically injured in the workplace. We promised and we delivered Labour Day back to its rightful place in May.

Our new and balanced Industrial Relations Act includes paid domestic violence leave, making Queensland the first Australian jurisdiction to do so. We have bargained a 2.5 per cent wage deal for public sector workers and successfully settled 40 agreements so far, bringing an end to an LNP imposed wage freeze that was due to their inability to bargain in good faith. We have also improved the health and safety rights of workers and their unions in the workplace.

Our racing industry reforms are light years ahead of those opposite, enacting the Racing Integrity Bill that is now being followed by other states but was opposed by those opposite. We are delivering the \$21 million Queensland Country Racing Support Program, recognising the integral role racing plays in regional communities.

In line with our election commitments, we have also enacted the Multicultural Recognition Act, including the charter and the Queensland Multicultural Advisory Council. Our new multicultural policy and action plan, Our story, our future, outlines the benefits of multiculturalism while promoting a united, harmonious and inclusive Queensland, free of any form of racism.