



Speech By  
**Jarrold Bleijie**

**MEMBER FOR KAWANA**

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Record of Proceedings, 15 June 2017

**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**Unemployment**

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (10.15 am): This 2017 budget is a jobs bonanza con job. If we have a jobs budget, we would expect the unemployment rate in the future to decrease. There is no decrease in the unemployment rate. It is going up. This big jobs bonanza budget that the Labor Party has been going on about will increase the unemployment rate in the state of Queensland, which goes to show that the programs and policies that the Labor Party has implemented over the past 12 months have not worked.

The recent ABS statistics in relation to the youth jobs crisis facing many regions in Queensland under the do-nothing Palaszczuk Labor government show that the situation is getting worse. Those statistics show that, over the past year, the number of young Queenslanders with a job has fallen by 10,400—by far the worst statistic of all in Australia. Queensland should be leading the nation in job creation and job security but, sadly, under this government we are coming dead last.

These job losses are being felt right across many parts of Queensland, with the east and west parts of Brisbane, the Sunshine Coast and southern Moreton Bay areas hit the hardest. Over the past year, job losses experienced in our regions include Brisbane east, 4,400 jobs gone; Brisbane west, 4,200 jobs gone; and the Sunshine Coast, 4,100 jobs gone. The following region had an increase in youth unemployment: outback Queensland, up 15.4 per cent to 48.4 per cent. Nearly 50 per cent of young Queenslanders who live in outback Queensland do not have a job, cannot get a job and have no prospects of getting a job. In Brisbane west, there is up to 15.6 per cent youth unemployment and, in Brisbane east, up to 20.1 per cent youth unemployment. As I said, the problems extend to many parts of the state, including Queensland's south-east. The youth unemployment rate in Brisbane east alone is above 20 per cent.

Of course, the Minister for Employment gets up and says, 'Our Back to Work program in regional Queensland will fix all of these issues.' Now that program applies to South-East Queensland. We said 12 months ago that that program should apply to South-East Queensland, but the members opposite said, 'Youth unemployment is not an issue in South-East Queensland.'

In 2016, under the Minister for Training and Skills, 21,000 fewer young Queenslanders were in some form of vocational training. While I am talking about the Minister for Skills and Training, I refer to the rescue package that was put in place for TAFE Queensland. There are going to be job losses in TAFE Queensland in the next 12 months. At the moment, there are 4,015 jobs in TAFE Queensland, going down to 3,989 next year. They are sacking TAFE workers, yet they say that they are going to rescue TAFE. Maybe TAFE did need rescuing, but not from the LNP but from the Labor Party.