




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR MACKAY

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ADJOURNMENT

Mackay Electorate, Jobs

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (9.01 pm): There have been a lot of graduation ceremonies in the Mackay electorate that have been cancelled in recent weeks. These graduation ceremonies are for graduates of the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program. These graduates have found secure work and have not been able to take time off work from their new jobs to attend the ceremonies. This is the best type of cancellation anybody could want.

The Skilling Queenslanders for Work program has been an outstanding success, getting locals skilled up to a point where they become valued staff members of companies. Young Ian McAulty completed a project at the Mackay showgrounds, gained a certificate I in construction, and went on to get an apprenticeship as a carpenter with Woollam Construction. This is great for the young people of Mackay. There are a wide range of programs in my region including certificates to work as carers, in administration and landscaping.

In the Mackay-Whitsunday region to date the Palaszczuk government has invested over \$2,727,000 to fund 25 projects. As at the end of September 355 people have exited projects in the region; 267 in the region have found jobs as a direct result of Skilling Queenslanders for Work; and another 42 people have gone on for further training or returned to school. That is not all. The very successful Back to Work program has seen 1,082 people employed under that program across the Mackay-Whitsunday region and 588 of them are from Youth Boost. This is great for the young people in my region. You will find these employees in restaurants, hotels, computer repairs, administration jobs, construction, retail and the list goes on.

As the Palaszczuk government's funded infrastructure rolls out, people will find our local tradespeople working on the \$28 million Vines Creek bridges rebuild; the new \$7.4 million Mackay fire station; the Mackay showgrounds redevelopment; and the mental health step-up step-down transition facility. This has been awarded to another local company, Zined Construction, which proudly employs local workers—more jobs for local families. The Palaszczuk government is getting local Mackay residents back to work and they are easing pressure on local households. This is good for the region.