



Speech By
Hon. Leanne Enoch

MEMBER FOR ALGESTER

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Advance Queensland

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Innovation, Science and the Digital Economy and Minister for Small Business) (2.40 pm): In the first two years of the Palaszczuk government, our Advance Queensland agenda has been delivering real results for the people of Queensland. Advance Queensland is a \$405 million whole-of-government investment in our state's future. The Palaszczuk government is committed to delivering jobs now and, of course, preparing our economy for the jobs of the future. We are turning ideas into action by attracting new investment, building global partnerships and encouraging businesses to start, grow and employ, and investing in research and technology.

Just last week, along with Minister Lynham, the member for Stafford, I met with Dr Paul Giacomini at the Prince Charles Hospital to see firsthand his Advance Queensland funded research which is progressing human trials into coeliac disease in three Queensland hospitals. With our support, Dr Giacomini's work will create hope for sufferers of coeliac disease, as well as jobs for health workers as it enters the critical phase of human trials. This is a perfect example of how Advance Queensland is delivering tangible outcomes.

We have also appointed the Advance Queensland Expert Panel to provide expertise and independent advice to government in the implementation of these initiatives and programs. The experience of the panel ensures programs and funding provided through Advance Queensland are being effectively invested and targeted. Since launching the initiative in June 2015 my department alone has opened more than 20 funding programs, assessed more than 2,000 applications and approved 383 grant recipients. That is an overwhelming response to what Advance Queensland is offering. Most importantly, we are supporting jobs by encouraging innovation and collaboration in industry.

Today I can advise the House that as of 31 December last year our investment in Advance Queensland so far has supported and will support more than 1,400 jobs across the state. Advance Queensland is supporting jobs across a range of industry sectors right now and is ensuring our state is in a position to create jobs in new and emerging industries in the future. A great example of this support is the Ignite Ideas program, which is helping businesses take their ideas off the drawing board and turn them into a commercial reality. In the first round of this program, 39 businesses from around the state shared in over \$5 million of funding to accelerate their growth and help them launch into global markets.

Advance Queensland is not just good for our economy; it is also making people's lives better. We have funded 52 early and mid-career researchers through our Advance Queensland research fellowships and PhD scholarships programs. These are some of the brightest minds in our state and we are funding their research into key areas that impact thousands of Queenslanders, including early detection of cerebral palsy and world-first 3D technology which could deliver significant benefits for women who have had breast cancer.

In April last year we focused the eyes of the world on our state through the Advance Queensland Innovation and Investment Summit held in Brisbane. A revamped event, the Advance Queensland Myriad Festival, will return to Brisbane at the end of next month. International entrepreneur megastars, innovation experts and venture capital investors will converge on Brisbane to join with local talent as we position our state as a global innovation mecca. The Palaszczuk government and Advance Queensland is delivering for Queensland.