




Speech By
Hon. Leeanne Enoch

MEMBER FOR ALGESTER

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Advance Queensland, Job Creation; Payroll Services

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Innovation, Science and the Digital Economy and Minister for Small Business) (10.02 am): It gives me great pleasure to update the House on Advance Queensland's current and long-term vision for job creation. Advance Queensland is the Palaszczuk government's \$405 million whole-of-government initiative supporting jobs across a range of industry sectors. From 31 December 2016 to 31 March 2017, the total number of jobs being supported by Advance Queensland programs increased from 1,402 to more than 2,100. According to Queensland's Chief Entrepreneur, Mark Sowerby, these figures are just the tip of the iceberg. Mr Sowerby says that, more than ever before, Queenslanders are making a life choice that it is better to approach their future from a standpoint of making a job, rather than taking a job.

We are encouraging Queenslanders to turn their great ideas into new services, new products, new exports and new jobs. 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 commercial reality. Recently, we supported 79 innovative small businesses from across the state that will share in almost \$11 million from the second funding round. These projects will deliver innovation in key industries such as agriculture and resources right across the state—from Mareeba to Toowoomba.

In fact, I would like to tell members about a Toowoomba based recipient, the Darling Downs Ice Cream Company. This family owned ice-cream retailer, franchisor and manufacturer successfully applied for an Ignite Ideas grant to expand their business into the functional food market. This Advance Queensland investment will create export opportunities in counterseasonal markets that will result in up to 40 part-time seasonal jobs becoming full-time jobs, which is great news.

Not only is this government committed to creating jobs but also we are determined to deliver successful payroll services, in particular the migration of four public safety agencies from the outdated Lattice system under the HRIS program. These agencies are the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, the Queensland Ambulance Service, Queensland Corrective Services and the Inspector-General Emergency Management. One agency—the Inspector-General Emergency Management—has already successfully moved onto the new Aurion system. Today, I am pleased to advise that the transition for a second agency has been a success. The first two pay runs have been completed for about 4,700 Corrective Services employees. This project adds to the record of projects delivered by Queensland Shared Services. Moving forward, the security of employees' payments will continue to be our highest priority.