



Speech By  
**Hon. Yvette D'Ath**


**MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE**

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Record of Proceedings, 1 March 2017

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS**

### **Skilling Queenslanders for Work**

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (2.24 pm): In Toowoomba they have helped restore a heritage building; in Townsville they are learning to dream, believe and achieve through a hospitality training program run by the Cowboys football club; and in Ayr they were shown how to build paths, picnic shelters and barbeque areas at Juru Walk Plantation Park. Who are these people? They are our Skilling Queenslanders for Work participants. These are just some of the thousands of people across this vast state who have jumped at the chance to learn new skills and find jobs through the Palaszczuk government's Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative.

A total of 8,921 Queenslanders have now exited the Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative. Of those, 5,700 now have jobs. Let me repeat that: 5,700 now have jobs. Another 1,391 have taken on further training and I am proud to say that 177 young people have returned to school. This means that the lives of 6,268 people who have gone through this program already have changed forever because of this government's commitment to skills, training and jobs. That means more than 70 per cent have already achieved a positive outcome of a job, further training or re-engaging in education. Skilling Queenslanders for Work is building momentum as well as addressing long-term unemployment. The program has direct benefits for towns and cities across this state because participants build their skills on the job with hands-on projects fixing, restoring or building facilities in our local communities. Maybe those on the other side should stop complaining and support their community organisations.

I am pleased to announce that the Palaszczuk government has now opened the next round of applications for Skilling Queenslanders for Work, with applications closing on 6 April. I am calling on community organisations across Queensland to apply. Notifying these community groups to let them know they have been successful is one of the most enjoyable parts of being a member of parliament. Their enthusiasm and commitment to jobseekers is inspiring. Some of these programs provide basic numeracy and literacy skills for people who have fallen through the cracks. Others provide nationally recognised certificates in areas ranging from childhood education to conservation and land management to business administration. All offer opportunities and second chances.

I would like to thank the hundreds of organisations delivering these SQW programs, the employers who see the potential of our graduates and, most importantly, the jobseekers themselves for deciding to venture through the doors this government opens for them.