



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


**MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE**

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Record of Proceedings, 21 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) (10.06 am): As I travel the state I have the privilege of being able to visit many of the Skilling Queenslanders for Work programs that are providing real results and outcomes everywhere I go. I know that many of my fellow ministers and members have been able to share the same experiences.

I rise today to speak about one of my recent visits and also to inform the House that, as of the end of February, more than 6,200 people have secured jobs as a direct result of Skilling Queenslanders for Work. These are jobs right across the state, helping youth, mature age workers, migrants, returning mothers and the disabled enter the workforce and contribute to growing the Queensland economy. I am pleased to inform the House that recent figures show that over 14,400 people have been assisted through Skilling Queenslanders for Work already, either having completed or currently undertaking a program. That includes people who have been through the program and secured jobs.

I am very pleased—it has been just three weeks since I last reported these figures to the House—that 6,220 people have secured jobs, 1,588 people have returned to further training and 224 youth have returned to school. This is great news for Queensland. Programs in the Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative are making a difference to everyday Queenslanders' lives.

Last week I was in Cairns and visited the Cairns Regional Community Development and Employment Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporation project, being delivered by IJC Training. This project is delivering certificate III in individual support and the students I spoke to were close to completing their studies. The participants were mostly recent migrants who all shared a common goal—that is, contribute to the Cairns community in a meaningful way. On 2017 Harmony Day it is wonderful to acknowledge how the Palaszczuk government is supporting diversity in our communities. IJC Training have developed strong ties to local employers and many of the participants are confident of securing long-term employment in the aged-care and disability sector. I was able to speak to many of them about their experiences, goals and future plans.

One of the people I met was named Mary. She was a recent migrant from PNG. With her bright smile and engaging personality, I am sure she will be a perfect fit for a career in aged care. What really struck me though was the fact that, even though she did not have a class that day, she walked more than four kilometres in the Cairns heat to come to tell me how much the training has changed her life.

Stories such as this are common. Whether I am in Cairns, Townsville, Toowoomba, Bundaberg or anywhere else in Queensland, for most of the participants it is an opportunity—an open door to a career, stability and success. From the results we have seen so far, many Queenslanders are making the most of it. I look forward to continuing to visit many of these programs into the future to witness firsthand the difference the Palaszczuk government is making to people's lives and to continue to provide real opportunities for all Queenslanders who want them.