



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


**MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE**

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Record of Proceedings, 23 May 2017

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Skilling Queenslanders for Work**

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (9.59 am): I rise to update the House on the great success of the Palaszczuk government's reintroduced Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mrs D'ATH:** I hear the laughs on the other side. They do not want to talk about jobs and they certainly did not support this very important initiative. They scrapped this initiative. I am very proud to say that, as of the end of April, over 11,500 Queenslanders have now exited the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program. Of those 11,500 Queenslanders, 7,439 of them now have jobs, 1,943 have taken on further training and I am very pleased to say that 308 young people have returned to school. The success of this program is unquestionable, changing the lives of thousands of Queenslanders in just over 18 months. This government has a proven commitment to skills, training and jobs.

On 13 April 2017, I announced the activation of the \$10 million Skilling Queenslanders for Work community recovery package to assist with the clean-up and rebuilding across Queensland as a result of widespread damage and severe flooding following ex-Tropical Cyclone Debbie. This \$10 million is in addition to the \$240 million over four years of the current program and is available immediately. I am pleased to announce today the approval of five Work Skills Traineeships projects worth \$3.68 million that will create 161 jobs in disaster affected communities. These projects will offer immediate job opportunities for up to six months in Rockhampton, Gladstone, Laidley, Beaudesert and Slacks Creek—all areas that have experienced damage from widespread flooding.

In Rockhampton, a community organisation has been awarded \$1,514,700 to employ 80 jobseekers to undertake reparation works in parks and gardens. Another organisation has been awarded \$292,200 to employ 15 jobseekers to undertake renovation works on the RSL hall at Laidley which has been prone to flooding. The Palaszczuk government has committed up to \$10 million under the SQW community recovery package, so there will be more jobs to come.

Last week I was delighted to attend a Skilling Queenslanders for Work graduation at Multicultural Development Australia. Out of the 28 graduates, 15 were unable to make it because they had already secured jobs. This is a fantastic outcome. The MDA also hosted 'Right Match', an event providing an opportunity for employers to conduct short five-minute interviews with graduating students—basically speed dating for employers and graduates—to take the opportunity to learn new skills and get the opportunity to be interviewed for jobs.

I would like to take this opportunity again to thank the hundreds of community organisations, registered training organisations, councils and businesses delivering these Skilling Queenslanders for Work projects and the employers who see the potential of graduates. The Palaszczuk government is committed to jobs for Queenslanders. That is why we have invested in Skilling Queenslanders for Work to support our most vulnerable and disadvantaged people in our communities to gain the skills they need to assist them into employment.