




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR BANCROFT

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PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Bancroft Electorate, Skilling Queenslanders for Work

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (2.09 pm): Today I rise to speak about one of the most important outcomes of the budget just delivered this week, and that is the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program. Skilling Queenslanders for Work is a crucial program for the hopes and aspirations of many residents of Bancroft who are searching for work. It provides the training and education they need, both of which are the keys to make a better and more secure life for these residents. Skilling Queenslanders for Work gives them confidence and the ability to help them look after their families and kids. In fact, Skilling Queenslanders for Work is the government program that provides that key most often in the seat of Bancroft. In Bancroft \$5 million has been invested in 25 community driven programs under Skilling Queenslanders for Work. Some 683 people have been assisted and 514 have got a job as a result of Skilling Queenslanders for Work. That is a great outcome—514 Queenslanders and 514 families whose lives have been changed.

There are many great stories through Skilling Queenslanders for Work. There was one story I heard through the Deception Bay Community Youth Programs, a great organisation that runs the Busi Events program which is funded under Skilling Queenslanders for Work. That story is of a local mother who was facing a range of issues, including kids with a disability, so there were many barriers and many obstacles and many demands for her to overcome, but through this 20-week program she got a certificate I in training and a part-time job. That is a great outcome for her. She got linked with job agencies and, most importantly, she got established with a peer group. Howard Buckley from Deception Bay Community Youth Programs tells me that the best thing they get out of Skilling Queenslanders for Work is confidence—confidence about themselves and confidence to put themselves forward to get a job.

There was another story of a lady with children who was once struggling. She got a certificate I in business administration and she now works with the youth programs at Deception Bay Community Youth Programs. I am so proud of these organisations in my area in terms of what they are achieving for Queensland families. Lives have been turned around and I am so pleased that the Palaszczuk government has boosted Skilling Queenslanders for Work by \$20 million to \$80 million this financial year. Not only that, we have extended the program for two years to the tune of \$160 million, and that is \$420 million over the life of this program over six years. We are seeing an incredible investment in Queenslanders with this program that is, as I said, helping to turn Queensland lives around. This program is supporting 54,000 Queenslanders into work. As I said, the lives of tens of thousands of Queensland families have been turned around and made so much better by this program. I thank the Palaszczuk government for bringing this program in.