



Speech By  
**Christopher Whiting**


**MEMBER FOR BANCROFT**

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Record of Proceedings, 16 October 2018

**MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST**

**Cyberbullying; Training**

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (2.10 pm): I stand to welcome the actions of the Palaszczuk government to create a safer and more confident future for the young people in my area. In particular I welcome the actions to counter cyberbullying and the initiatives to deliver the training that young people in my area need to get jobs. My area has some of the largest concentrations of young adults and children. North Lakes State College has 3,000 students. Bounty Boulevard State School, the largest P-6 school in the state with over 1,400 students, will soon be the second largest P-6 in the state after Mango Hill State School, just five minutes drive away. Deception Bay State High School specialises in VET courses and has seen a 10 per cent rise in enrolment in recent years.

I know that for local parents and families education is a core value. What they want most is for us to provide a fair and decent education for their kids. Today, on behalf of those parents, I congratulate the Premier on her firm and decisive leadership on the issue of cyberbullying and congratulate the Leader of the Opposition for her bipartisan approach. I can point out to local parents and students the practical actions we are taking to counter cyberbullying. These actions are allocating \$500,000 for grants for young people to develop anti-cyberbullying initiatives. For example, young people could apply for grants to run education sessions for parents and carers about the social media they use and provide a young person's perspective on how best to support children on the issue of cyberbullying.

There will also be \$2 million over two years, as noted by the Premier this morning, for awareness campaigns. In January 2018, \$60,000 was allocated to yourtown, which operates the Kids Helpline and Parentline, so it can respond to growing demand on this issue. The government has taken leadership of the Bullying No Way! website. Most importantly, 100 per cent of Queensland state schools participated in the National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence in March 2018.

The Queensland Anti-Cyberbullying Taskforce report has recommended a range of reforms. I am very proud that the Palaszczuk government has accepted or accepted in principle all recommendations. These actions will have a huge beneficial impact on the lives of young people in my area. Families are genuinely concerned, worried or stressed by the prospect of cyberbullying, but these actions by the Palaszczuk government help remove a barrier from them and help them to get on and build a better future.

Also removing barriers and helping people to build better futures are the Palaszczuk government's actions to deliver the training needed by young people. The Palaszczuk government is supporting Queensland students and workers with a \$777 million investment in a range of programs in vocational education and training. This includes the further investment in Skilling Queenslanders for Work and free TAFE for year 12 graduates. We know that these programs are working. Eighty-three per cent of our school students who undertake a VET program while at school transitioned to further education, training or paid employment. More than 80 per cent of Certificate III Guarantee graduates have transitioned to work or training. Skilling Queenslanders for Work is a huge job-creating success

throughout Queensland. Over \$5 million has been invested in 25 community driven projects in Bancroft under SQW. To date, 683 people have been assisted by programs in Bancroft, and at last count 514 people have gained jobs as a direct result of participating in Skilling Queenslanders for Work.

The Palaszczuk government committed \$420 million over six years to Skilling Queenslanders for Work, from its reintroduction in 2015-16 to 2020-21. It will support 54,000 Queenslanders into work. We know that Skilling Queenslanders for Work is delivering long-term benefits. A recent survey showed that more than 73 per cent of participants who completed a work project in 2016 were employed or engaged in further study at the time of the survey. I have not even touched on the free TAFE program for those who complete a senior certificate. When they graduate this year they can access free TAFE in 160 career-making courses.

Young Queenslanders face many challenges as they transition to a career, to higher education and to working life. What we need to do—and what we are doing through these actions—is remove some of the barriers in their lives, whether it be the prospect of cyberbullying or the lack of opportunity for training and education. I stand proud as a member of the Palaszczuk government.