




Speech By
Hon. Grace Grace

MEMBER FOR MCCONNEL

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Labour Hire

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations) (9.58 am): I am delighted to report to the House that the new Labour Hire Licensing Act and labour hire licensing scheme are off to a flying start. Under the new laws, labour hire providers are now required to have a licence to hire out labour in Queensland. Just one month after the new laws started, we have received more than 1,300 applications, with over 145 licences approved. This is a great start.

It shows that labour hire operators are fully aware of their legal obligations and are now ready to get on with business. Labour hire providers have until 15 June to apply online for their licence if they have not done so already. As long as providers have their application in by that date they can continue to operate until their licence is approved. For all the information on the scheme, licence providers and how to apply online, the labour hire website is the place to go.

The Labour Hire Licensing Compliance Unit is operational and on the ground talking to providers and processing applications and compliance checks. With these new laws, we are finally regulating the sector that has been left unregulated for far too long. The new laws, the first of their kind in the country, respond to years of evidence of serious exploitation of workers in the labour hire industry, ranging from cases of wage theft to sexual harassment and systemic tax avoidance. These new laws are good for workers and for labour hire providers and other employers who are doing the right thing. One provider, who has already lodged their application, said in their feedback—

... we found the online application to be easy and user friendly. The process was straightforward and particularly self-explanatory with plenty of information available online. It's great to see the Queensland Government taking a hard line against providers who aren't doing the right thing by workers.

I ask those opposite to join us in supporting our new laws and calling for the federal government to establish a national labour hire licensing scheme along the lines of Queensland's model. We need to ensure that these benefits can flow across the country. It is about time! I am so proud these laws are now fully operational.