



Speech By  
**Meaghan Scanlon**


**MEMBER FOR GAVEN**

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Record of Proceedings, 2 May 2019

**PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS**

**Gold Coast, Jobs**

 **Ms SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (2.54 pm): The Gold Coast is a job creation hotspot right now with the largest annual employment growth in Queensland: 17,400 people have joined the workforce here in the last 12 months, according to ABS data. Our government has played a role in boosting the local economy to create jobs. We have the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program which has assisted 30,000 people with training, of which more than 22,000 people have found a job as a direct result. Last week I joined the Minister for Education, Grace Grace, to announce that we are spending \$240 million on infrastructure projects across 16 Gold Coast schools which is creating 600 full-time jobs. This year in Queensland we will employ more than 1,000 additional teachers as part of our commitment to employ more than 3,700 extra teachers over four years.

In last year's budget we backed in Gold Coast health services with a record \$1.5 billion investment, a \$34.5 million increase on the previous year, and since March 2015 we have hired an additional 218 doctors and 886 nurses in our city alone. In the tourism sector we have seen record numbers. The National Visitor Survey figures released last month showed that domestic overnight visitation grew by 7.2 per cent and we have seen record overnight expenditure grow to \$3.5 billion. What this means is jobs for locals and it helps us grow what is already a sector that employs around 40,000 people on the Gold Coast.

We are seeing the transformation of the athletes village to the Health and Knowledge Precinct, a space for incubators and start-up businesses which is expected to support around 26,000 full-time jobs once fully developed and occupied. It is also very exciting to see my old uni, Griffith University, purchase one of these sites to be home to its new \$80 million advanced design manufacturing and prototyping building. We are also backing in local businesses like Patterson Glass, based in Nerang in my electorate, that has received a grant through our Made in Queensland program to grow its manufacturing business. This will create job opportunities for locals.

Yesterday we were 'all shook up' over the announcement that Baz Lurhman 'can't help falling in love' with the Gold Coast and will film a new Elvis Presley movie that will create 900 jobs and inject \$105 million into our economy. We are building infrastructure. We are delivering four M1 upgrades, Cross River Rail, the Oxenford interchange, three new train stations—the list goes on. We are doing the heavy lifting and delivering for Gold Coasters, but unfortunately the Morrison government is cutting. It has locked in over \$27 million worth of cuts from our local hospitals and health services and has allowed penalty rates to be cut, affecting thousands of people in my community and showing no great increase in jobs in these businesses. We need representatives who will back our local industries, services and employees so I will continue to fight for our city's fair share.