



Speech By  
**Hon. Shannon Fentiman**


**MEMBER FOR WATERFORD**

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Record of Proceedings, 4 September 2019

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Back to Work**

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (5.52 pm): This week marks 20,000 Back to Work jobs in Queensland. This is a significant milestone and today I visited our 20,000th Back to Work job starter, Aaron, at Cutlers Diesel Performance in Bohle. Cutler's Diesel Performance is a small business that specialises in diesel performance upgrades and tuning for four-wheel drive vehicles. The owner, Brendan Cutler, has employed two apprentices through Back to Work. Shane was employed a little over a year ago and Aaron has recently started. Both of those young apprentices have helped us reach this fantastic milestone. Both are excited to be learning a trade that will set them up for life.

This is a great example of what the Back to Work program is all about. It is giving small businesses such as Brendan's the confidence to create more jobs and provide opportunities for many Queenslanders to get a start in an exciting career. More than 77 per cent of Back to Work businesses are small businesses just like Cutler's Diesel Performance. Almost one in four of our Back to Work jobs have gone to apprentices and trainees. With our recent announcement of free apprenticeships for Queenslanders under 21, I expect we will see many more.

Every day I get to hear stories from across Queensland of how people have grown in confidence and learnt new skills, and in some cases have progressed even further in the business. Ours is a government that is all about supporting our businesses to start, grow and create more jobs.