




Speech By
Hon. Shannon Fentiman

MEMBER FOR WATERFORD

Record of Proceedings, 6 February 2020

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Jobs

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (10.09 am): The Palaszczuk government is delivering jobs for Queenslanders. Since coming to power in 2015, this side of the House has created over 235,000 jobs across the state. That is a fantastic achievement and it would not be possible if we were not investing in job-generating programs such as Skilling Queenslanders for Work and Back to Work. Since we reintroduced Skilling Queenslanders for Work in 2015, we have supported thousands of Queenslanders to gain work-ready skills and training. Already more than 28,000 graduates have gone on to find a job thanks to that program. If any members in this House have been lucky enough to attend a graduation, they will know that only about half of the graduates are ever there because the others have already found a job.

One of those graduates is Jordan Lea, a 19-year-old from Toowoomba whose school experience left him unmotivated until he joined Downs Industry Schools Co-op's Get Set for Work project. Jordan completed a Certificate II in Skills for Work and Vocational Pathways. During his training he experienced a variety of career pathways, including in hospitality and retail business, and the Defence Force. I am happy to report that the project sparked a passion in Jordan to get a job in the construction industry. It is fantastic to see that he is now undertaking a carpentry apprenticeship. Skilling Queenslanders for Work is changing lives, not just of young people such as Jordan; it is also providing invaluable skills and support for mature age people such as mums returning to the workforce after having children, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, migrants, refugees, veterans and people with a disability.

Another key initiative in creating jobs is our Back to Work program, which has seen more than 21,000 jobs created since 2016, 17,000 of them in regional Queensland. With the support of Back to Work, Rockhampton based wellness centre The One Life Centre was able to employ two locals. One of those employees, Makayla Bell, is excelling in her job as a receptionist and not only has been an asset to the business but also has developed excellent customer service skills thanks to her training. Recently Makayla has completed a certificate in relaxation massage and wellness treatments that will help her further her dream career.

We are a government that is all about creating jobs and providing opportunities for locals in our regions. We will continue to invest in the initiatives that open up opportunities for Queenslanders to get their dream job.