




Speech By
Hon. Shannon Fentiman

MEMBER FOR WATERFORD

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Back to Work Program

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (10.05 am): The Palaszczuk government is committed to supporting businesses right across Queensland, especially in regional Queensland. I am proud to announce that we have reached a milestone with over 10,000 businesses supported to create more jobs through our Back to Work program. Back to Work is a fantastic program which provides support of up to \$20,000 for employers who take on unemployed Queenslanders who have been struggling to find work in regions that are doing it tough.

One success story that I visited last year with the member for Gladstone is local family owned engineering business Jenmick Gear Cutting and Engineering. The business celebrated 20 years in business and its ongoing success is helping locals get back to work. The business started in 1999 by Clifton and Sandra to produce precision machined components and services. Since then the business has gone from strength to strength and has recently taken on three new staff members with the help of Back to Work.

Brianna, Jake and Ruben all started at Jenmick through the Back to Work program and have continued their employment once the program finished. The business is planning on taking on another apprentice this year and is looking forward to skilling up more of Gladstone's local workforce. Jenmick administration assistant and Back to Work part-time trainee Brianna is in her final year of a Certificate III in Business Administration. Brianna said she is glad that she can work part-time in such a welcoming and friendly place while completing her course.

We have created over 940 jobs in Gladstone thanks to the Back to Work program, supporting over 400 small and medium businesses. We know Queensland businesses love the Back to Work program, with more than 21,000 jobs created through the program—and four out of five of those jobs being in regional Queensland. Back to Work is making a big difference for regional businesses and employees alike. That is why our government is proud to be investing in this program.

I would encourage any small and medium businesses looking to grow and take on more employees to speak to our hardworking Back to Work teams across Queensland to see how the program can help them expand and create even more jobs in more industries.