



Speech By  
**Hon. Shannon Fentiman**


**MEMBER FOR WATERFORD**

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## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Skilling Queenslanders for Work**

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (10.02 am): Across the world and here in Queensland we have seen the COVID-19 pandemic impact local economies, but because the Palaszczuk government has managed the health response to COVID-19 so well we can firmly focus on our plan for economic recovery, which is all about investing in training so that Queenslanders have the skills they need for jobs now and into the future. Skilling Queenslanders for Work is one of our most popular programs. It provides on-the-job skills and training, with more than 31,000 participants going on to get a job as a result of the program.

Just last month the Premier announced an additional \$10 million for the program. This boost will go towards assisting more Queenslanders such as Max Edwards, who is working on the Belong's bush conservation project in Logan. During COVID-19 he and other participants continued their landscaping work whilst helping to pack food boxes at Lighthouse Care in Logan for families doing it tough. Max said he loved every minute of working with his team and helping people in need, and he now has a job with Logan Landscapes.

It is stories such as that that make the program such a success. As the Premier announced today, the next round of funding is open. It will be wonderful to see hundreds more organisations apply for funding to give participants the experience and hands-on training needed to get a job whilst also working on local community projects.

I know that members on this side of the House are big fans of the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program. The member for Redlands has seen firsthand what the program can achieve for local communities. Recently I attended a graduation with the member for Redlands at the Redlands Rugby League Club, where 30 young construction trainees have been giving the club a much needed makeover. Not only have they been able to give back to their local community but also they have learnt skills for life. Eighty per cent of the graduates have already found a job.

This is why the Palaszczuk government is proud to continue our support for that successful program unlike those opposite who, when in government, scrapped the program and went to the last election promising to scrap it again. Our government understands the value of providing skills and training for Queenslanders to get a job. As we continue our plan for economic recovery, it is vital that Queenslanders looking for work have the opportunities they need to upskill and get a job.