




Speech By
Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

Record of Proceedings, 31 August 2022

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Workforce Strategy

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (9.35 am): This afternoon I will be attending the National Cabinet meeting in Sydney. This will be followed by the national Skills and Jobs Summit in Canberra. Both are vital; both are connected. The COVID pandemic is by no means over. Let me repeat that we are still in the grip of this pandemic, and National Cabinet was formed to confront it. So far Queensland has managed better than most. Almost alone in the world our people were able to be vaccinated before the virus arrived. Thanks to the people of Queensland, our lockdowns were limited. That strong health response led to our very strong economic recovery.

There are 213,000 more people in work today than there were before COVID. In fact, we have more jobs than people to fill them, but the gaps in our workforce mean gaps in our recovery—hotels that cannot capitalise on the resurgent tourism industry because they do not have enough cleaners to open more rooms and gaps on supermarket shelves because their suppliers cannot find staff. Just as we did during the pandemic, we summoned employers, unions, workers and educators. They helped draft the Workforce Strategy that I will take to Canberra.

At the launch of this strategy yesterday I met Nick Lindsay. His company, Gilmour Space, builds and launches satellite-bearing rockets from the Bowen space facility. He told me that the biggest obstacle to finding his staff is young people who do not believe in themselves, so they no longer set prerequisites for job applicants. 'Just give me good people who build things, who try and fail and learn,' he said. They pay their employees bonuses for recruiting like-minded friends. They have grown from a couple of dozen employees to now over 140. Belief is everything. I believe we will overcome this challenge just like all the rest and Queensland will be better as a result.