




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR ROCKHAMPTON

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ADJOURNMENT

Skilling Queenslanders for Work

 **Mr O'ROURKE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (7.03 pm): A few weeks ago I had the pleasure of congratulating eight graduates who had completed the Fundamentals of Community Pharmacy. They were participants in the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program. Through this training five had already been successful in gaining employment and the other three are now suitably trained for when positions become available.

We heard from Anna who spoke about the uncertainty of work in the hospitality industry during COVID so she decided that she would make a change in her working career. With the support of her husband and her son who had just entered high school, she joined the Fundamentals of Community Pharmacy project. Anna noticed an advertisement for an entry level job with one of the pharmacies. Anna approached the pharmacy to inquire about completing the work placement component of the program with them and she was encouraged to apply for the position. Anna was successful in the interview and commenced casual employment during the first week of the program. The pharmacy was aware of the course completion date and was happy to offer Anna weekend work until she graduated.

This was the second Skilling Queenslanders for Work funding round for 2020-21. The Pharmacy Guild was awarded \$33,500 for the Fundamentals of Community Pharmacy project under the Community Work Skills program to assist 12 disadvantaged Queenslanders in Rockhampton. Project participants achieved a Certificate II in Community Pharmacy to assist them find employment within the community pharmacy sector. Community Work Skills projects provide tailored assistance and integrated learner support to disadvantaged jobseekers while they undertake nationally recognised qualifications up to a certificate III level. The project has provided participants with job preparation and industry networking opportunities for two weeks in industry placement.

Since the Palaszczuk government's Skilling Queenslanders for Work program was reinstated in 2015, the Pharmacy Guild has been successful in securing about \$1.9 million to assist 674 disadvantaged Queenslanders. The first funding round for 2022-23 closed in March, with funding announcements expected in mid June. Skilling Queenslanders for Work has been extremely successful in assisting some of our most disadvantaged into employment. It is a great program.