




Speech By
Hon. Leeanne Enoch

MEMBER FOR ALGESTER

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Cybersecurity; ICT Industry

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Alger—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts) (9.58 am): Today is Computer Security Day. It was first held back in 1988 when very few people had computers in their home. Now—and especially this year as so many in our communities have personally felt the impact of cybercriminals—it has even greater significance. We know that all organisations and individuals are at increasing risk of cybersecurity threats. The Palaszczuk government understands the risks and we are responding to the real and escalating threat to the data we hold and for the services we provide to Queenslanders.

We know that cyberthreats are ongoing and increasing, and that they come from a range of sources, including nation states and activists, but predominantly from financially motivated criminal groups. As many experienced during the recent Optus and Medibank incidents, breaches can be stressful for anyone whose data has been compromised. We are staying vigilant and have a team of experts working behind the scenes to assess the threats and risks and to take actions to minimise the risk to Queenslanders. We actively coordinate with the Federal government and law enforcement to share knowledge and hold cybercriminals to account.

We are also helping to develop the next generation of Queensland's digital specialists. With Queensland's accelerating digital future, it is estimated about 10,000 new digital professionals will be needed by 2024. First Nations people have been underrepresented in digital careers and we are taking proactive steps to address this. We have piloted our First Nations Digital Careers Program, which is a partnership with Microsoft aimed at First Nations Australians interested in a career in the digital industry.

In August we placed four trainees in positions within the Queensland government and two with our industry partner, Fujitsu. The trainees have recently completed an intensive 12-week pre-employment boot camp with the program's Indigenous partner organisation, Goanna Solutions. The program focuses on preparing them for the workplace while completing the first modules of their Certificate III in Information Technology studies. Recently I was pleased to attend the end-of-boot-camp celebrations to present the trainees with their completion certificates and to congratulate them on their achievements to date. The trainees have now transitioned into their workplaces and are using the skills learned during their traineeship and they continue to expand their knowledge of the digital and ICT industry.

We are planning to use the program to build interest in digital careers in First Nations people. From this pilot we hope to be able to build up the program and we aim to secure positions for up to 100 participants across Queensland for the 2023 intake. The Palaszczuk government is committed to accelerating Queensland's digital future because we know it will deliver good jobs, better services and enhance our great Queensland lifestyle.