




Speech By
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ADJOURNMENT

Skilling Queenslanders for Work

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (7.28 pm): I rise to talk about the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program. Last month I attended another graduation in Deception Bay. The Deception Bay Neighbourhood Centre celebrated an amazing cohort of graduates from that program who did a cert III in early childhood education and individual support. I can say that 70 of that cohort of 105 already have work from that program. What the Deception Bay Neighbourhood Centre achieves through Skilling Queenslanders for Work is absolutely amazing. They have put 1,000 people into work since we brought this program back.

It was great seeing these people get the training to secure a job. They were given an opportunity that many thought at that stage had passed them by. Some of them thought they would never work again, but with this program we were able to open up the working world to them again. Their families were so proud.

It is great news to see that Skilling Queenslanders for Work will continue in Deception Bay. More programs are on the way. Yunity will be running a Certificate I and II in Workplace Skills, assisting 92 people, and a Certificate I in Construction, assisting 15 people. Movement TwentyTwo will be running a Certificate II in Rail Infrastructure for 57 people, and many people from that program go on to work with Cross River Rail. It is great to see they are being employed there. The Neighbourhood Centre will be conducting a Certificate III in Individual Support for 75 more people, and two other courses will be run to assist another 50 people.

My community in Deception Bay has a truly great record in using Skilling Queenslanders for Work to produce some really great results, changing people's lives and those of their whole families with what they deliver.

With regard to Skilling Queenslanders for Work, I always think these days about the LNP saying they want rolled gold intervention programs and they want to see these programs audited. Every time I hear that I think, 'What about Skilling Queenslanders for Work?' We know that through this program 51,000 Queenslanders have employment or undertaken further training. It is the most successful employment program in Australia. It turns around the lives of people and their families and in turn their communities as well.

Let's remember that the LNP cut this program in 2012, despite Deloitte showing that for every dollar expended it generates an \$8 economic return. For every one dollar, you get \$8 back in the economy. That is a rolled gold program. Let's see that audited again. I worry that if those opposite ever get back into government again, God forbid, they would cut or gut this program. It would be not only this program but also others, which we know are rolled gold, which Queenslanders need to keep moving forward.