

Question on Notice
No. 965
Asked Wednesday 1 September 2004

Mr Choi asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (**Mr Barton**):

QUESTION:

What initiatives have been undertaken by the Government in partnership with the Redland Shire Council to provide training and therefore better employment opportunities.

ANSWER:

Realising the Smart State through education, skills and innovation is a key priority of Government. To support economic and employment growth in the Redland Shire area, my department implements vocational education, training and employment initiatives that are strategically directed toward addressing the skills needs of the local labour force, with a particular focus on addressing skills shortages.

Government partners with industry and community across the Redland Shire to provide opportunities for locals to develop the skills they need to participate in and contribute to local industry.

Partnership arrangements between my department and Redland Shire Council toward skilling locals and providing better employment opportunities have proven particularly fruitful.

For example-

1. Moreton Institute of TAFE's training partnership with Redland Shire Council

Although a number of TAFE institutes provide training and employment services across the area, Government's provision of quality vocational education and training in the Redlands Shire area is lead by Moreton Institute of TAFE.

Moreton institute and other departmental staff are actively involved in an innovative training partnership arrangement with the Redland Shire Council known as the Redland Training Catalyst. The Redland Training Catalyst also enjoys the support of the commonwealth Department of Employment and Workplace Relations, New Apprenticeship Centres, Job Network Centres, and private registered training organisations.

The aim of the partnership is to provide training and employment opportunities for target groups identified by Redland Shire Council as requiring additional assistance in accessing learning and earning opportunities. These include unemployed people, mature aged people, Aboriginal People and Torres Strait Islanders, people with a disability and women returning to the workforce.

This partnership has already supported a project providing opportunities for fifty-one people to undertake training towards a Certificate III in Aged Care. 85% of participants have completed this qualification - not only enhancing their employment opportunities, but also the community's ability to care for its ageing population.

Training currently being delivered through the partnership arrangement includes:

- Horticulture training: 48 participants
- Tourism: 16 Participants
- Hospitality: 56 participants.
- Frontline Management/Leadership: 13 participants.

Vocational Training areas were selected on the basis of local skills need and opportunity for employment. It is anticipated that employment outcomes will be significant.

2. Breaking the Unemployment Cycle initiative

In keeping with its partnership and community based approach to skilling and increasing access to employment opportunities, the Breaking the Unemployment Cycle Initiative has enabled the following assistance for the Redland Shire Council since October 1998.

- Funding totalling \$2,546,000 to employ 144 full-time trainee positions, three full-time apprentice positions and 11 school-based trainees/apprentices.
- Funding totalling \$10,000 in July 2002 to undertake research to address the lack of comprehensive information available on the range of skills available in the Redland community and local employer requirements.
- Funding of \$250,000 in July 2003 to provide assistance to people either wishing to enter the workforce or enhance their existing skills. Training offered included units of competency in training packages from aged care, horticulture and tourism/hospitality. Training was also offered to obtain machinery and earth moving licences. As at 31 August 2004, 137 people had participated in this project, which is due to complete in October 2004.

3. Manufacturing Industry-School Partnership

As part of Manufacturing Industry Initiative, my department and the Australian Industry Group are working in partnership with Redland Shire Council and Redlands Business Grow to enhance the image of employment in manufacturing industries in the Redland Shire area. Their aim is to encourage local students toward career pathways within manufacturing industries and to address local skills shortages.

Preliminary discussions regarding the establishment of a manufacturers' cluster and the development of a partnership between this cluster and local high schools have occurred. The department will support the establishment and consolidation of school-

industry partnerships including through linking appropriate stakeholders for the development of the industry-schools partnership group.

Officers of my department will also promote the benefits of school-industry partnerships to the Manufacturers' Forum which is being facilitated by Business Grow. The Forum is scheduled for late November 2004.

The Manufacturing Industry Initiative focuses on developing a leading-edge highly skills manufacturing workforce in Queensland. The initiative is a key component of the Smart State's Making Queensland's Future- A Manufacturing Development Plan.