

Question on Notice
No. 164
Asked on Tuesday, 20 February 2007

MR WENDT ASKED THE MINISTER FOR STATE DEVELOPMENT, EMPLOYMENT AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS (MR MICKEL)—

QUESTION:

How are young people in Queensland and, in particular, my electorate of Ipswich West, being assisted into work under the initiative, *Skilling Queenslanders for Work*?

ANSWER:

Under the *Breaking the Unemployment Cycle* initiative and between October 1998 and December 2006, \$48 million has been invested in 454 youth specific projects throughout Queensland to assist 70,877 young people aged between 15 and 24 with 62,621 of the number assisted gaining employment.

In the Member's Electorate of Ipswich West during this same period, overall funding for the Electorate under this initiative totalled \$7.5 million. This helped to create 17 projects, assist 2,298 people of which 1,348 obtained employment. With respect to the young people of Ipswich West, the initiative has assisted 1,295 people between the ages of 15 and 24 with 896 gaining employment.

Whilst the *Breaking the Unemployment Cycle* initiative has been very successful, it will cease in June 2007 and will be replaced by *Skilling Queenslanders for Work* as part of the ongoing changes under the *Queensland Skills Plan*.

Skilling Queenslanders for Work is an initiative based on the changing labour market conditions which builds on the success of its predecessor. This initiative will provide customised assistance to suit the individual needs of targeted job seekers.

Under *YouthWorks* which is the State Government's strategy to get young people into work and away from unemployment, people aged between 15 and 24 years will be assisted through three components, namely –

- Get Set For Work – a program to prepare 15 to 17 years old for work
- Youth Training Incentives – a wage subsidy of up to \$4,000 for employers who hire a school-based apprentice or trainee
- Availability of a personalised package of assistance for 18 to 24 years old to help them develop the skills and experience they need to compete for jobs

Young people may also participate in other *Skilling Queenslanders for Work* projects through the network of providers across Queensland and employer bodies. Under a *Skilling Queenslanders for Work* project, people receive a package of assistance that matches their personal needs. It may include any or all of these:

- direct work placements (including traineeships)
- job preparation training
- accredited vocational education and training
- formal recognition of skills through recognition of prior learning
- post-participation support for up to six months
- employer wage subsidies
- mentoring
- contribution to transport and childcare costs for eligible parents and carers.