

Question on Notice
No. 344
Asked on Wednesday, 7 March 2007

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

QUESTION:

Will he outline employment initiatives that are operating in the Inala Electorate that encourage people to get back to work and how much funding is committed to these programs?

ANSWER:

Under the *Breaking the Unemployment Cycle* initiative, the Queensland Government has been helping disadvantaged jobseekers to enter or return to the paid workforce since October 1998 and during 2006/07 this initiative will transition to the new *Skilling Queenslanders for Work* initiative.

In the Inala Electorate and between October 1998 and December 2006, \$8.52 million has been allocated under *Breaking the Unemployment Cycle* and this has assisted 3,267 jobseekers from that Electorate, of which 1,271 gained employment.

Skilling Queenslanders for Work will consist of a number of strategies that will target disadvantaged jobseekers. The implementation of the initiative will see some key changes, including more individualised assistance, labour market responsiveness and greater flexibility in the delivery of customised employment and training services.

The *Skilling Queenslanders for Work* initiative will provide an annual investment of \$80.75 million to eligible organisations including community based not-for-profit organisations and local government authorities throughout the State. These organisations will deliver similar services to those offered through the current Community Jobs Plan. However organisations will no longer be restricted to offering one type of employment assistance. Organisations can now “mix and match” assistance tools to suit individual needs. In doing so, individuals will develop the skills and experience they need to compete in the labour market. *Skilling Queenslanders for Work* assistance tools include:

- paid work placements, which provides paid employment to individuals on projects with community benefits such as public works, community and environmental projects;
- job preparation assistance, including training and work experience personal development, living skills, job search training, skills assessment, literacy and numeracy assistance, vocational placement, work experience or any other assistance which prepares participants for finding and maintaining employment;
- accredited vocational education and training;
- formal recognition of skills through recognition of prior learning; and
- employer wage subsidies.

An initiative that is running in the Inala electorate is the *Inala Wests League Club Refurbishment* project which recently received \$100,000 under the Community Jobs Plan – Work Placement program. This is part of a flexible working arrangement between the Brisbane City Council and the Department of Employment and Industrial Relations to enable long-term unemployed people and those at risk of long-term unemployment, to gain paid work and job experiences for three to six months. This project is employing eight Indigenous men who will be involved in the refurbishment of the West Inala Junior Rugby League Football Club situated at the CJ Greenfield sports grounds. The purpose of this project is for participants to develop skills and obtain work experience to assist transition into paid work.