

Question on Notice
No. 67
Asked on 7 February 2007

MR GIBSON asked the Minister for State Development, Employment and Industrial Relations (MR MICKEL) —

QUESTION:

With reference to the article in *The Courier Mail* on Thursday, 25 January 2007 entitled, "Youth are leaving the land forever" —

- (1) What initiatives has the Government implemented to attract people to Queensland's agricultural workforce?
- (2) What initiatives has the Government implemented to fill the void of skilled workers caused by Queensland's mining boom?

ANSWER:

I welcome the Member for Gympie's new found interest in the issue of unemployment.

Since Breaking the Unemployment Cycle began in October 1998 \$10.132 million has been invested in the Gympie electorate. This funding has assisted 1,736 people with 1,473 obtaining employment. Since 9th September 2006, grants administered by the Department of Employment and Industrial Relations have provided \$284,120 funding for 55 persons in the Gympie Electorate to receive employment and training assistance.

Programs within my Ministerial portfolio include:

(1)

- Breaking the Unemployment Cycle
- Skilled migration program

(2)

- Skilling Queenslanders for work
 - Bushworks strategy