Question on Notice

No. 439

Asked on Tuesday 15 April 2008

MR CHOI ASKED THE MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT, TRADE, EMPLOYMENT AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS (MR MICKEL)—

QUESTION:

With reference to training and support for women in the Redlands who have been out of the work force for a period of time to gain employment, will he advise what his department has done in this regard?

ANSWER:

Under the *Skilling Queenslanders for Work* initiative, the Queensland Government is continuing to help disadvantaged jobseekers to enter or return to the paid workforce.

I am advised, Redland City Council received funding to deliver two *Women2Work* projects under the *Skilling Queenslanders for Work* initiative in the 2006/2007 and 2007/2008 financial years. These projects assisted long-term unemployed or underemployed women who were parents or carers and mature jobseekers within the Redlands. Funding was provided for the participants to receive job preparation assistance, accredited training and Recognition of Prior Learning to enhance their employment opportunities.

The *Women2Work* projects took a client-centred approach aimed at enabling women returning to the workforce to manage their own career and learning pathways.

The participants gained the following skills through the seven week program including:

- career planning
- job search techniques
- resume preparation
- addressing selection criteria
- interview techniques
- life skills - communication, positive self image
- networking and relationship building
- basic computer and internet skills
- accredited training through Metropolitan South Institute of TAFE - Queensland Computer Skills Passport.

The final numbers of participants who received assistance through both projects was 91. I am advised 51 participants were assisted in 2006/2007 and of these, 45 (86%) gained employment or enrolled in further training.

In 2007/2008 financial year, a total of 40 participants were assisted. From the first intake of 20 participants, 15 gained employment and 1 participant enrolled in further training. The second intake of 20 participants are currently receiving job placement assistance.