

Question on Notice

No. 488

Asked on Wednesday 16 April 2008

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

QUESTION:

How is the Labor Government supporting employment in Redcliffe?

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 over the past three financial years improved workforce participation within Redcliffe has been achieved through Department of Employment and Industrial Relations' (DEIR) approval of \$3,955,870 to deliver 26 projects. These 26 projects have been able to assist a total of 769 people to date.

I am further advised of the 769 participants assisted to date, 558 (72%) have either gained employment or progressed to further training. The following outcomes have been reported as a direct result of the Department's *Skilling Queenslanders for Work* programs:

- 388 participants have gained employment
- 154 have undertaken further training or education
- 16 (young people) have returned to school.

In addition to these employment and training outcomes, program providers have also reported on significant qualitative outcomes participants have achieved due to the supportive nature of the DEIRs programs. These outcomes include:

- Establishing social support networks
- Reconnecting with family members after breakdown
- Accessing relevant health support services
- Maintaining safe & stable accommodation

These and other complex social issues act as barriers to participation in the workforce and DEIRs suite of programs supports individual participants to work through these barriers in order for them to engage with employment and training opportunities.

I am advised DEIR is currently funding eight programs in the Redcliffe area, these include:

- Five *Skilling Queenslanders for Work* Programs
- One Get Set for Work Program
- One Community Literacy Program
- One Queenslanders Working Together Program

DEIR advises that one example of a current funded program in the Redcliffe Peninsula is a project, designed to assist 74 people. The project involves a combination of paid Work Placements, Job Preparation and Accredited training activity, focusing on a number of identified skills shortage areas including landscaping, horticulture, information communication technology, business administration and retail. To date, 45 people have been assisted, with 22 into employment and the remainder into further training.

Another example of a funded program in the Redcliffe Peninsula has been developed to assist 50 young people who have disengaged from school prior to completing year 12. The project offers participants one-on-one assistance to obtain and maintain employment, undertake further training or return to school. Participants are supported through strategies such as literacy and numeracy skills, self-esteem and confidence building activities, interpersonal, social and living skills development and work readiness training. I am advised to date, 24 young people have been assisted, 12 into employment and 12 into further training.