

Question on Notice

No. 1480

Asked on 8 October 2009

MRS SCOTT ASKED THE TREASURER AND MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (MR FRASER)—

How has the ‘Skilling Queenslanders for Work’ initiative benefited the Woodridge Electorate?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Government has made a commitment to the creation of 100,000 new jobs over the next three years. *Jobs First: Delivering Jobs for Queensland* reaffirms that commitment and sets out a four point plan to:

1. Build Infrastructure to keep Queensland’s record building program going.
2. Develop skills for the future to ensure we are prepared for recovery.
3. Support new and traditional industries to enable industries and businesses to emerge, grow and transform.
4. Develop new job creation programs to assist unemployed Queenslanders to get back into work.

The fourth part of the plan is the Government’s commitment to assist unemployed Queenslanders to get back into work by developing new job creation programs. The Bligh Government has continued this commitment by investing over \$320 million over the next three years through the *Skilling Queenslanders for Work* initiative to support 63,000 Queenslanders with a mix of training, vocational skills, job preparation and employment opportunities to gain job-ready skills and sustainable employment outcomes.

Projects, including Queensland’s Green Army, are continually being developed throughout the year under the *Skilling Queenslanders for Work* initiative, with the second and final funding round for the Brisbane South and Gold Coast area recently closing. Organisations throughout the Gold Coast region, including the Woodridge Electorate, that seek funding for next financial year will be invited in early 2010 to prepare submissions for funding consideration.

Under the *Skilling Queenslanders for Work* initiative, there are a number of projects currently being delivered to assist people who are unemployed, which benefit the Woodridge Electorate.

For example, under this initiative from 1 July to 30 September 2009 projects worth \$2.6M are being delivered in the Woodridge Electorate. The projects will assist 1,180 people through job preparation, accredited training and paid work placements, including Green Army work placements:

- \$2,161,376 towards *Skilling Queenslanders for Work* to assist 956 people, which includes \$515,220 to fund 28 Green Army placements in the Woodridge area;
- \$363,000 towards Productivity Places Program to assist 132 people; and
- \$93,410 towards Community Literacy Program to assist 92 people.

Within the Woodridge Electorate, organisations delivering programs under this initiative include Marsden Education Association Inc, Seventh-day Adventist Church, Blueprint Employment & Training Inc, Y-Care (South East Queensland) Inc, Vocational Training Australia Pty Limited, BoysTown, ACCES Services Inc, Kingston East Neighbourhood Group Inc, Bridgeworks Personnel Limited and Beenleigh District Community Development Association.

Many of these organisations specialise in assisting a target group and/or industry to increase individual skills as well as assisting employers with appropriately skilled workers. Two examples of current projects are:

- Y-Care (South East Queensland) Inc is currently delivering the *Children's Services – Productivity Placement Program* in three locations – Slacks Creek, Beenleigh, and Capalaba. This project will assist the long-term unemployed and parents and carers transition into the children's services industry with targeted accredited training. Its training arm, the Australian YMCA Institute of Education and Training, has been delivering accredited training from Certificate I to Certificate IV for ten years. Participants will undertake a full Certificate III in Children's Services including industry placement. Additional training in job search methods and life-skills will also be included.
- ACCES Services Inc is currently delivering a *Muslim Labour Market Participation* project that will assist 80 unemployed Muslim people who are disadvantaged in the labour market. The two year project began in 2008 and consists of two male and female employment workers who identify with the Islamic faith. These workers have a particular focus on examining the barriers to employment for Muslim people and engaging in strategies to overcome these barriers, in order to increase the involvement of Muslim people in the workforce.