

Question on Notice

No. 1963

Asked on 6 October 2010

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

How may trainees have benefited, over the period of this Parliament (or another convenient indicative period) from the *Skilling Queenslanders for Work* program in the electorate of Murrumba (or if more convenient, the region) and what are the chief benefits of which the Minister is informed of the program?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Government is investing \$106 million annually in the *Skilling Queenslanders for Work* initiative to support 24,000 Queenslanders with a mix of training, vocational skills, job preparation and employment opportunities to gain job-ready skills and sustainable employment outcomes.

Twelve-month traineeships form a major component of the *Skilling Queenslanders for Work* initiative, with over 5,000 individuals assisted annually throughout Queensland.

Over the course of this Government 477 Queensland trainees in the Moreton Bay local government area, including the Murrumba electorate, have received assistance under *Skilling Queenslanders for Work*. This assistance included:

- 9 full-time Queensland Green Army traineeships for 12 months employment with local councils and the community sector at a cost of \$99,000.
- 10 full-time traineeship positions under the First Start program with local councils and the community sector at a cost of \$136,000.
- \$191,000 of incentive payments for businesses and local councils to employ 191 school-based apprentices and trainees under the Youth Training Incentives program.

Young people remain a focus under *Skilling Queenslanders for Work* and it is pleasing to see that 82% of assisted trainees in the Moreton Bay local government area are young people aged 15 to 24.

I am also pleased to report that a recent state-wide survey conducted 12 months after trainees completed a *Skilling Queenslanders for Work* traineeship indicates that 77% are employed and/or 24% are undertaking further study or training. Overall, 83% of former trainees are working, studying or combining both activities.

Trainees who commence a twelve-month traineeship under the *Skilling Queenslanders for Work* initiative benefit in a number of ways. Trainees undertake a nationally accredited qualification while gaining valuable paid work experience. This combination of on-the-job learning and participation, coupled with ongoing structured training, leads to the development and retention of life-long transferable skills and is helping Queensland create an adaptable workforce for the future.