

Question on Notice

No. 449

Asked on 31 July 2012

Ms Palaszcuk asked the Minister for Education, Training and Employment (Mr Langbroek) –

QUESTION:

With reference to the Minister's announcement to cut funding to the *Skilling Queenslanders for Work* programs—

Will the Minister outline how many public servant positions, positions in non-government organisations and the total funds cut for the following *Skilling Queenslanders for Work* programs:

- (a) Participate in Prosperity Program,
- (b) Productivity Places Program,
- (c) Queensland's Green Army,
- (d) First Start Program,
- (e) Get Set for Work Program,
- (f) Indigenous employment,
- (g) Community Literacy Program and
- (h) Youth Training Incentives?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for her question.

As part of shaping the 2012–13 State Budget, our Government has had to make some tough financial decisions, including the discontinuation of State programs. These tough decisions are enabling this Government to shape a strong responsible budget for 2012–13 that will go a long way towards laying the foundation for Queensland's long term economic prosperity.

I have been advised by my Department that the total budget for the *Skilling Queenslanders for Work* (SQW) initiative in 2012–13 was to be \$81.3 million. This total 2012–13 budget figure consisted of a combination of \$64.3 million grant funds available to eligible organisations, and an operational budget of approximately \$17 million that employed departmental staff. In addition, the 2012–13 grants budget would have also included a further \$8.56 million of Australian Government funds provided through a National Partnership Agreement aimed at assisting Single and Teenage Parents access to accredited training.

As the 2012-13 State Budget is to be formalised in September 2012, my Department had not finalised any possible budget allocation to specific programs contained within the SQW initiative.

I must point out that a number of the programs referred to by the Member actually ceased at the end of June 2012, these being the Green Army and the Australian Government funded Productivity Places Program.

The honouring of the existing SQW contracts by my Department will ensure those organisations that were part way through the delivery of a program will still continue to the scheduled 2012-13 completion date.

These overall grant commitments equate to approximately \$19 million within 2012–13, therefore resulting in grant savings of approximately \$45.3 million.

As a result of the decision to cease SQW, 144 Full Time Equivalent departmental positions will no longer be required to manage the initiative. The cessation of the initiative has resulted in overall savings of approximately \$8.5 million in operational costs for 2012–13.

Therefore, bringing overall savings as a result of this decision within 2012–13 to \$53.8 million.