

Question on Notice

No. 747

Asked on 15 September 2015

MR WHITING ASKED THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL, MINISTER FOR JUSTICE AND MINISTER FOR TRAINING AND SKILLS (HON MS D'ATH)–

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise the House how the electorate of Murrumba has benefitted from the recent announcements on the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for his question.

I am pleased to advise that the Palaszczuk Government has recently announced the outcomes of the first *Skilling Queenslanders for Work* (SQW) funding round for 2015–16. There are 200 community based projects across Queensland worth more than \$26 million that will assist more than 8000 Queenslanders with skills development and tailored support that leads to employment and further educational opportunities.

The SQW initiative represents a significant investment by our Government of \$240 million over four years. SQW comprises a suite of targeted skills and training programs that focus on developing skills for individuals and providing direct assistance to those Queenslanders who require support to gain the qualifications and skills needed to enter and stay in the workforce.

It gives me great pleasure to advise the Member that six projects in the Murrumba electorate have been approved and will receive a combined total of \$1.1 million of funding to assist 344 disadvantaged job seekers.

The Deception Bay Community Youth Programs Association will deliver three projects. Under the Community Work Skills program, they have been awarded \$333,600 to provide paid work placements to undertake a Work Skills Traineeship and complete a Certificate I in Conservation and Land Management. The project will not only assist disadvantaged people in Deception Bay to gain valuable work experience, participants will also undertake revegetation and restoration of environmental vegetation areas along Burpengary Creek.

Deception Bay Community Youth Programs Association has also received \$193,000 for a Get Set for Work project that will provide intensive employment and training assistance to disengaged young people aged 15-19 years to assist them to transition into the workforce, undertake further education and training or return to school. The project will provide nationally accredited training in Hospitality and Retail and participants will receive case management and support to overcome barriers and help them achieve their training and employment goals.

In addition, Deception Bay Community Youth Programs Association has been awarded \$47,800 to provide a Ready for Work project delivering basic job preparation and employability skills to young people aged 15-24 years.

A second Ready for Work project, worth \$40,800 will be delivered by Y-CARE Inc in North Lakes, assisting young people aged 15-24 years to give them the skills and knowledge they need to find employment.

The electorate of Murrumba will also benefit from the Skilling Queensland Pathway to Retail project. Challenge Employment and Training has received funding of \$420,900 to deliver their Community Work Skills project which will provide nationally accredited training in Retail, along with foundation skills, job preparation skills and individual case management to participants in North Lakes, Mooloolaba and Coolumb.

The National Retail Association has been awarded funding totalling \$64,300 to also deliver nationally accredited training in Retail through their Ready for Retail project. This Community Work Skills community training program will support disadvantaged Queenslanders in North Lakes, Wide Bay and Bundaberg to gain a Certificate II in Retail Services and build skills that will maximise local job opportunities.

On 10 September 2015, I announced the opening of the second SQW funding round for 2015–16. I encourage interested eligible organisations in the Murrumba electorate to submit their applications before the closing date on 12 November 2015.

This Government recognises that there are regions in Queensland that have a high level of community need and through SQW we are targeting support and providing skills to improve the employment prospects of residents in these communities.

Training that improves an individual's skill level, confidence and social inclusion makes them more employable which is a priority for the Palaszczuk Government. I know the member is passionate about providing training and employment opportunities in his community and I look forward to working with him into the future.