

Question on Notice

No. 753

Asked on 15 September 2015

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

QUESTION:

Will the Minister outline how the electorate of Greenslopes will benefit from the first round of funding for 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.

In the Greenslopes electorate, Vision Australia Limited has been successful in the first SQW round in securing funding of \$137,800 for their Career Visions project under the Community Work Skills program. The project will provide paid work placements for up to six months for six vision-impaired participants while they undertake a Work Skills Traineeship completing a Certificate I in Business.

Work Skills Traineeships integrate vocational skills with on-the-job nationally recognised training and employability skills. Participants sign a training contract with their employer and are registered as trainees.

Eligible constituents of the Greenslopes electorate can also access training and support through SQW projects that are being delivered in surrounding areas. Projects include the Multicultural Development Association's Get on Track project which has received \$157,500 of funding under the Get Set for Work program. Through this project 45 disengaged young people aged 15-19 years from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds will have the opportunity to complete a Certificate II in Retail Services or a Certificate II in Hospitality. This project is being delivered from Woolloongabba.

The School Community Industry Partnership Service has also received approval under the Get Set for Work program for their Learn and Earn project. The Learn and Earn project being delivered in South Brisbane has been awarded funding of \$225,800 to assist 100 disadvantaged young people aged 15-19 years who will have the opportunity to complete a Certificate II in Hospitality or a Certificate I in Construction.

Through the Australian Training Company's project, Building Careers in Construction, 45 young people aged 15-24 years will have the opportunity to complete a Certificate I in Construction. The project, to be delivered in Salisbury, has been awarded \$129,300 under the Community Work Skills community training program. Building Careers in Construction will also provide participants with tailored support and assistance including a mix of career advice, job preparation skills, foundation skills and individual case management.

These projects will be instrumental in developing skills for individuals and providing direct assistance to those Queenslanders who need support to gain the qualifications and skills needed to enter and stay in the workforce.

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

Training that improves the employment prospects of disadvantaged Queenslanders will continue to be a priority for this Government. I look forward to working with the Member to ensure residents of the Greenslopes electorate have access to these opportunities.