

## Question on Notice

No. 987

Asked on 14 October 2015

**MR RUSSO** ASKED THE TREASURER, MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS AND MINISTER FOR ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PARTNERSHIPS (HON C PITT)—

### QUESTION:

Will the Treasurer advise how the payroll tax rebate for apprentices and trainees introduced in the 2015-16 State Budget is benefitting businesses in the Sunnybank Electorate?

### ANSWER:

The Queensland Government has committed to job creation as one of its core policy objectives to lead Queensland to a more prosperous and inclusive future.

That is why the 2015-16 Budget has job creation as its primary focus, with a \$1.6 billion investment in our *Working Queensland* commitments.

The Budget Paper *Jobs Now, Jobs for the Future*, outlines the economic rationale underpinning each of the key *Working Queensland* initiatives within the context of a high level policy framework.

These initiatives include the additional payroll tax rebate of 25 per cent on the wages of apprentices and trainees. This rebate is in addition to their wages being exempt from payroll tax up to 30 June 2018, with the rebate able to be used as an offset against payroll tax on the wages of other employees.

This measure, budgeted at \$45 million over the next three years, will give employers an additional incentive to take on new apprentices and trainees, and ultimately enable Queensland to continue developing a higher skilled workforce into the future.

The payroll tax rebate is being implemented as part of a range of measures aimed at enhancing the productivity and efficiency of business, improving skills and training, growing our regions, fostering emerging and innovative industries and boosting the delivery of government and social services.

As of September 2015, 2,111 employers have claimed the apprentice and trainee wages rebate for payroll tax across Queensland since its introduction.

As of September 2015, 83 employers claimed the apprentice and trainee wages rebate for payroll tax in the relevant post codes for Sunnybank.

Sunnybank is an electorate with a significant number of small and medium businesses and is home to many families whose younger members are likely to benefit from the apprentice and trainee wages payroll tax rebate.

It is expected we will continue to see employers take advantage of this incentive in Sunnybank, also helping support improved employment outcomes for our youth and young adults in the region.

The payroll tax incentive for apprentices and trainees is just one of the many *Working Queensland* initiatives benefitting the businesses and workers in Sunnybank and across the entire State.