

**Question on Notice**  
**No. 1510**  
**Asked on 31 August 2016**

Mr Bleijie asked the Premier and Minister for the Arts (Hon. A Palaszczuk) —

With reference to the Premier's advice that statutory authority appointments will be advertised and candidates undergo a thorough merit based selection process and to the recent Estimates hearing where the Deputy Director-General of the Department of Education and Training revealed that the Chair of Jobs Queensland was not appointed through a meritorious selection process—

Will the Premier advise (a) if the appointment of the Chair of Jobs Queensland was conducted pursuant to a merit based selection process including being advertised and if not, why not, and (b) if the position was not advertised will the Chair be stood down until such time as the position is advertised?

ANSWER:

As the Member is aware, an Interim Reference Group (IRG) for Jobs Queensland commenced in January this year following the enactment of legislation to establish Jobs Queensland. Ms Hunter was appointed as the Chairperson through a merit selection process, drawn from a number of highly-credentialed candidates. The remaining IRG members were appointed directly based on nominations from key industry and employer stakeholder groups.

When the time came to formally appoint expert members to the Board of Jobs Queensland, this included a widely-advertised expression of interest process. Other Board members representing employer and employee organisations were appointed on a direct nomination basis.

As the Member would also be aware, Ms Hunter is highly respected by business and industry and is universally recognised for her experience in the VET sector through her previous leadership of the TAFE system and in her former roles as Director-General of the Department of Education, Training and the Arts and of the Department of Justice and Attorney-General. This is why the Government felt entirely comfortable and appropriate in using the earlier merit-based process to formally appoint Ms Hunter as Chairperson of the Board of Jobs Queensland.