

Question on Notice

No. 1738

Asked on 11 October 2016

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

QUESTION:

Will the Attorney-General outline to the house how the Palaszczuk Government's Skilling Queenslanders for Work program is supporting people in the Caboolture Region?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for his question.

The Palaszczuk's Government's *Skilling Queenslanders for Work* (SQW) initiative represents a significant investment of \$240 million over four years to support up to 32,000 Queenslanders through a suite of targeted skills and training programs.

The initiative encourages participation by a broad range of groups who generally face barriers or challenges to their participation in skills development and the labour market. SQW plays a critical role in increasing workforce participation and the overall performance of the Queensland economy by training, skills and work opportunities for disadvantaged Queenslanders.

To assist disadvantaged jobseekers in the Moreton Bay Regional Council area, which includes those in Caboolture, SQW focuses on developing an individual's skills and supports them to gain a nationally recognised qualification up to the Certificate III level.

Local residents of Caboolture and surrounding localities have been benefiting from SQW since we reinstated the initiative last year. To date, 51 community-driven projects worth around \$9.4 million have been approved to provide nationally recognised training, skills development and jobs to 2222 residents of the Moreton Bay Region.

The second funding round of SQW for 2016–17 opened on 30 August 2016 and closed on 20 October 2016, for projects to commence from March 2017. Applications are being considered and, I look forward to announcing additional projects for delivery to disadvantaged Queenslanders in the near future.

Opportunities are also available to jobseekers from the Moreton Bay Region through the First Start program delivered under SQW. Moreton Bay Regional Council received \$62,500 in 2015–16 and created five additional traineeship positions and in 2016–17 has recently been awarded \$62,500 under First Start to employ a further five young people into a 12 month traineeship.