

Question on Notice

No. 1741

Asked on 11 October 2016

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

QUESTION:

Will the Attorney-General provide an update on the changes made to the government's Work Start incentive for private sector employers in South East Queensland and my electorate of Kallangur?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for his question.

I am pleased to advise that Work Start incentives form part of the *Skilling Queenslanders for Work* (SQW) initiative the Palaszczuk Government has successfully reinstated. The incentives aim to reward private sector employers with a one-off \$10,000 payment if they employ a SQW participant in a traineeship or apprenticeship.

In 2016–17, \$3 million is available under the Work Start incentives program to support 300 new traineeships or apprenticeships throughout South East Queensland.

To complement the introduction of the Palaszczuk Government's \$100 million *Back to Work* regional employment package, amendments have been made to the Work Start incentives eligibility criteria and the amount paid to employers. The changes are backdated to 1 July 2016.

Work Start now provides the incentive payment to private sector employers who employ an eligible person after 1 July 2016, who are ineligible for an employer support payment under *Back to Work*. This includes employers located in the South East Queensland local government areas of Brisbane, Gold Coast, Ipswich, Lockyer Valley, Logan, Moreton Bay, Noosa, Redlands, Scenic Rim, Somerset, Sunshine Coast and Toowoomba.

Work Start incentives are also available to private sector employers in regional Queensland who are eligible for Queensland's Apprentice Trainee rebate for payroll tax as they are ineligible for the Back to Work employer support payments.

Notably, the amount paid under Work Start has increased from \$2000 to \$10,000 and is paid to private sector employers once the apprentice or trainee has completed three months of employment.

The Member for Kallangur will be pleased to hear that Work Start incentives are available to private sector employers in the electorate of Kallangur, if they employ someone who has participated on a SQW project in a traineeship or apprenticeship.