

Question on Notice

No. 1768

Asked on 11 October 2016

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

QUESTION:

Will the Attorney-General advise how disadvantaged Townsville jobseekers are being supported into finding work through the latest round of Skilling Queenslanders for Work?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for his question.

The Queensland 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 that 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 providing training, skills and work opportunities for disadvantaged Queenslanders.

To assist disadvantaged jobseekers, including those in Townsville, SQW focuses on developing an individual's skills and supports them to gain a nationally recognised qualification up to the Certificate III level.

I am pleased to advise that in June 2016, a total of 192 community-based projects worth \$33.3 million were approved throughout Queensland under the first SQW funding round for 2016–17 to provide nationally recognised training, skills development and jobs to 7540 disadvantaged Queenslanders. This includes nine SQW projects worth almost \$1.6 million awarded to local community organisations in the Townsville electorate that will assist 405 local residents.

This is in addition to what was awarded to Townsville under SQW in 2015–16 — 19 community-driven projects worth almost \$2.47 million to assist 894 people in Townsville.

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. While applications are being considered, I look forward to announcing additional projects for delivery to disadvantaged Queenslanders in the near future.

Opportunities are also available to Townsville jobseekers through the First Start program delivered under SQW. Townsville City Council received \$262,500 in 2015–16 and created 21 additional traineeship positions and in 2016–17 has recently been awarded \$250,000 under First Start to employ a further 20 young people into a 12 month traineeship.