

Question on Notice

No. 1777

Asked on 12 October 2016

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

QUESTION:

Will the Attorney-General advise of the number of First Start Traineeship positions that have been allocated to the Mackay Regional Council in 2016–2017?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for her question.

The Palaszczuk Government's *Skilling Queenslanders for Work* (SKW) 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 participating and the overall performance of the Queensland economy by providing training, skills and work opportunities for disadvantaged Queenslanders.

First Start is one of seven programs that make up the SQW initiative and aims to provide young people and disadvantaged job seekers with an opportunity to gain a nationally recognised qualification and 12 months' paid employment by undertaking a subsidised traineeship with a local council.

Funding under First Start is specifically targeted at new employees and provides local councils with a significant subsidy to boost their traineeship commencements above their normal workforce levels to assist in undertaking council activities, including regional development.

Importantly, the program encourages local disadvantaged job seekers to remain within their local communities.

In 2016–17, \$3.75 million has been awarded to 63 local councils, including 14 Indigenous Councils, across Queensland to employ 300 additional trainees by 31 May 2017.

I am pleased to advise that of this allocation, the Mackay Regional Council has been awarded \$212,500 (excluding GST) to employ 17 First Start trainees.