

Question on Notice

No. 77

Asked on 15 February 2017

MR KELLY ASKED THE MINISTER FOR INNOVATION, SCIENCE AND THE DIGITAL ECONOMY AND MINISTER FOR SMALL BUSINESS (HON L ENOCH)—

Will the Minister advise the opportunities and benefits that the Advance Queensland Knowledge Transfer Partnerships program can offer the people of the electorate of Greenslopes?

ANSWER:

Any Queensland small to medium business with less than 200 employees and looking to progress an innovation project can apply for a Knowledge Transfer Partnerships program grant of up to \$50,000. The Advance Queensland funding will cover up to two thirds of the eligible costs of bringing a recent Honours, Masters or PhD level university graduate into a business to progress an innovative project.

The opportunities and benefits that the Advance Queensland Knowledge Transfer Partnerships program can offer businesses in the electorate of Greenslopes include:

- building collaboration between small business and local universities by bringing on recent university graduates to work on innovative projects
- supporting and encouraging innovation and productivity improvement within small businesses to create knowledge based jobs.

The Knowledge Transfer Partnerships Fund is already benefiting the Electorate of Greenslopes. The Music Broadcasting Society of Queensland, based at Coorparoo, has received a grant of \$24,960 (excluding GST) towards the cost of engaging a recent graduate with a Masters in Music Therapy. The project involves using the Silver Memories – Nostalgia Radio Service as a non-pharmacological approach to help to manage the issues associated with dementia.

The project included expansion of the Society's Silver Memories – Nostalgia Radio Service, bringing singalongs, cheerio calls and therapeutic music to residents of aged care homes across Queensland. The project has provided knowledge and skills transfer opportunities for both the recipient and the graduate and at the successful completion of the project, the Music Broadcasting Society of Queensland has offered the graduate ongoing employment.

As the first group of the Knowledge Transfer Partnerships projects are now reaching their conclusion, other reports are coming in about the success of the program and the positive decisions by recipient businesses to continue the employment of the graduates.

The Advance Queensland Knowledge Transfer Partnerships program was launched in September 2015. Since that time the Australian Council of Learned Academies, in their *Translating research for economic and social benefit* report, recommended other states, territories and the federal government adopt a similar model.