

## QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 1099

Asked on 5 September 2018

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**MRS J STUCKEY** ASKED THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND SMALL BUSINESS AND MINISTER FOR TRAINING AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT (HON S FENTIMAN)—

### QUESTION:

With reference to the Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative—

Will the Minister advise, for 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19 to date (reported separately by year) in the Currumbin Electorate (a) how many projects were operated and completed and (b) how many jobs have been created as a direct result of this initiative?

### ANSWER:

I thank the Member for her question.

The Skilling Queenslanders for Work (SQW) initiative represents a significant investment by the Palaszczuk Government of \$420 million over six years until 2020-21 and supports training in every region of Queensland.

Even though a Deloitte report showed an economic return of nearly \$8 for every dollar invested under this program, I note the previous LNP government cut this program and the LNP election costing documents in 2017 detailed SQW would be cut again to the tune of \$42 million.

SQW was reinstated in 2015 with an initial aim to assist 32,000 people by June 2019. This target was reached ten months ahead of schedule. To date, more than 33,800 Queenslanders have been assisted under SQW with 18,408 successfully securing employment through their participation in a SQW program.

SQW holds two funding rounds each year under a transparent and contestable application process. To ensure funding is provided to projects that provide SQW participants with training and qualifications aligned to local employment opportunities, applications for funding are reviewed, prioritised and recommended by seven locally based Regional Priority Jobs Committees comprising of representatives from community, industry, government and unions.

Residents of the Currumbin electorate may access SQW programs offered by organisations based outside the electorate. Across the Gold Coast region more than 2,630 residents have benefited from 116 projects funded a total of \$14.96 million so far since the initiative was reinstated. Through these projects 1,291 people have secured jobs as a direct result of the training provided.

This includes, \$344,300 for five community-driven projects based in the Currumbin electorate to assist up to 133 local residents. So far, 108 people have been recruited onto these SQW projects, with 55 people securing a job as a direct result of participating in SQW.

In 2015-16, the first year of SQW being reinstated following its abolition by the previous Government, the Currumbin electorate received funding of \$168,000 for two projects which assisted 92 local jobseekers, with 52 people securing jobs after completing their training.

In 2016-17, no projects proceeded based in the Currumbin electorate.

In 2017-18, three projects within the Currumbin electorate worth \$176,300 were approved to assist up to 41 local jobseekers. To date, 16 people have been assisted under these projects, with three people securing employment as a direct result of participating in SQW. All three projects are still current and due to be completed in the coming months.

In the first funding round of 2018-19, no SQW applications were submitted to deliver projects in the Currumbin electorate, however the second round funding closed recently, and applications are currently being considered.

In addition to the community-driven projects, \$20,000 has been paid to two private sector employers in the Currumbin electorate under the Work Start incentives program, for employing two former SQW participants as trainees. One of these trainees, who is mature age and visually impaired, was recently a state finalist in the Equity VET Student of the Year category in the 2018 Queensland Training Awards.