

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 1001

asked on 2 September 2021

MR B MICKELBERG ASKED THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND SMALL BUSINESS AND MINISTER FOR TRAINING AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT (HON D FARMER) —

QUESTION:

With reference to the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program—

Will the Minister provide (reported separately for the years 2019-20 and 2020-21) the (a) total number of participants, (b) number of participants who go on to employment and (c) number of participants who go on to further training?

ANSWER:

I am pleased to provide an update on the outcomes being achieved under the successful Skilling Queenslanders for Work (SQW) initiative.

SQW has become permanent with annual funding of \$80 million that will assist up to 15,000 disadvantaged Queenslanders into work each year through a suite of eight targeted skills and training programs.

This stands in stark contrast to the treatment of SQW by the Liberal National Party. The former LNP Government axed the program in 2012 despite an independent Deloitte review finding SQW delivered an eight dollar return for every dollar invested. The LNP promised to cut SQW again during the 2017 election and to date have never committed to retaining the highly successful program.

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance of support for those in the community most vulnerable to reduced employment opportunities. Independent destination survey results show that since 2015, around 73 per cent of SQW participants have secured employment, gone onto further training or a combination of both, 12 months after completing a program. Programs funded during 2020-21 are still ongoing. The employment outcomes of 2020-21 are expected to raise over the next 12 months.

Since the reinstatement of SQW in 2015, \$443.72 million has been committed to provide nationally recognised training, skills development and job opportunities to 71,004 Queenslanders. As at 31 August 2021, 63,610 Queenslanders have already been assisted, with 39,433 securing jobs as a direct result of participation.

SQW performance data for 2019-20 and 2020-21 (as at 31 August 2021) is detailed in the table below based on participants that commenced projects in 2019-20 and 2020-21. Projects are delivered over a 12-month period so outcomes will continue to increase as participants complete and exit projects. Completed participants have completed the nationally recognised training component of the project but are still receiving support. Exited participants have completed the project and are no longer receiving assistance.

Financial Year	No. Assisted (a)	No. Exited	Employment Outcomes (b)	Training Outcomes (c)	Return to School	Overall Positive
2019-20	9,765	9,596	5,661	1,167	137	6,298
2020-21	9,633	6,977	3,812	909	96	4,395