

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 526

asked on Wednesday 10 May 2023

MR J LANGBROEK ASKED MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND SMALL BUSINESS, MINISTER FOR TRAINING AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER FOR YOUTH JUSTICE
(HON D FARMER)

QUESTION:

With reference to people with a disability participating in the Skilling Queenslanders for Work (SQW) initiative—

Will the Minister advise for 2022 and 2023 to date (a) how many people with a disability participated in SQW and (b) how many people gained successful employment following participation in SQW?

ANSWER:

People with disability (including but not restricted to individuals who have long-term physical, mental, cognitive, intellectual or sensory impairments) who are aged 15 years and older and no longer at school can access a supported learning pathway under SQW that is appropriate to their needs and increases their ability to participate in society and the economy.

Tailored, local community-based support is offered to people with disability as well as young people (including those in and transitioned from out-of-home care), mature-age job seekers, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, women re-entering the workforce, Australian Defence Force veterans, recently released prisoners and people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

Since 2015, 76,928 disadvantaged Queenslanders have been assisted under SQW, including 9,594 people with disability (representing 12.5% participation across all programs as at 30 April 2023).

In 2022, 1345 participants with disability were assisted under SQW. As at 30 April 2023, 1183 of these participants have exited SQW with 620 gaining employment.

In 2023, 1016 participants with disability have been assisted under SQW. As at 30 April 2023, 991 of these participants have exited SQW with 521 gaining employment.

It is expected that participation and outcomes will continue to increase as more projects commence and new intakes are delivered.

The Queensland Government Statistician's Office conducts destination surveys of SQW participants 12 months after exiting SQW, and 69.8% of participants with disability have experienced a positive outcome (employment, entered further training or a combination of both outcomes).

These outcomes highlight the success of SQW when compared to the Australian Government Department of Employment and Workplace Relation's latest published Post-Program Monitoring (PPM) survey results from 1 April 2021 to 30 March 2022. This report shows that job seekers with disability placed in Stream C (the most disadvantaged job seekers who may have a combination of vocational and non-vocational barriers to employment) are achieving 34.6% positive outcomes three months after participating in employment services.