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1527 JOBS CREATED IN IPSWICH ELECTORATE BY GOVT PROGRAMS

The Beattie Government has helped create more than 1500 jobs in the Ipswich electorate under its labour market programs since October 1998.

Minister for Employment and Training Tom Barton said today the Beattie Government had helped create more than 109 000 jobs across the state under the *Breaking the Unemployment Cycle* initiative and the new *Skilling Queenslanders for Work* initiative.

Mr Barton said that since the introduction of the *Breaking the Unemployment Cycle* initiative in October 1998, more than \$13.61 million had been allocated to the Ipswich electorate. In addition to the 1527 jobs created, another 981 jobseekers have been helped with valuable job-related assistance through the initiative and its successor, *Skilling Queenslanders for Work*.

“The *Breaking the Unemployment Cycle* initiative was introduced by the Beattie Government soon after we came to office in recognition of the problems faced by those most disadvantaged in the labour market”, he said.

“These included the long-term unemployed, early school leavers, mature-aged people, Indigenous people, people with a disability and from a non-English speaking background.

“We were particularly conscious of these groups because the previous coalition government had abandoned people on labour market programs when they took office in 1996.

“They scrapped them for blind ideological reasons and hurt a lot of people in the process”.

Mr Barton said the *Breaking the Unemployment Cycle* initiative had reached its target of helping to create 100 000 jobs more than a year ahead of schedule, with an investment of \$743 million.

“With the announcement of the \$1 billion *Queensland Skills Plan* earlier this year, *Breaking the Unemployment Cycle* will transition into the *Skilling Queenslanders for Work* initiative”, he said.

“We will invest almost \$240 million over the next three years on *Skilling Queenslanders for Work* in programs designed to more flexibly meet the skill needs of the most disadvantaged in the workforce.

“At a time of severe skill shortages it is essential that we get as many people into the workforce as possible to provide both industry and individuals with the skills they need”.

Mr Barton said the two initiatives had been highly successful because of the strong local community support for them in electorates like Ipswich.

In Ipswich since 1998:

- 320 local jobseekers have gained paid work and experience on community projects.
- \$4.94 million was invested in 31 local community projects to improve facilities and give jobseekers valuable work experience and extra skills.
- 1079 people have been given job-search and other related assistance.
- \$596 000 in cash incentives has been paid to 194 private employers and group training organisations and 260 additional apprentices and 61 additional trainees have been employed in crucial, skills shortage industries.
- State agencies, local government councils and community organisations have created 329 additional traineeships, 9 extra apprenticeships and 10 school-based positions.
- 336 jobseekers including young people, unemployed early school leavers and ex-offenders received intensive employment and training assistance.
- 58 mature-aged jobseekers have received tailored assistance, including job-search and job preparation assistance, to help them compete in the labour market.

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