



Rachel Nolan MP

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Social Enterprise Hub launched in Ipswich

The Ipswich Social Enterprise Hub to assist not-for-profit organisations which will help some 50 people highly disadvantaged in the labour market into employment will be officially launched by the Member for Ipswich Rachel Nolan today.

Parliamentary Secretary for Employment and Economic Development Jan Jarratt and Member for Ipswich Rachel Nolan said that Social Ventures Australia Limited received \$144,375 to support the establishment of the Ipswich Social Enterprise Hub under the Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative.

"The Social Ventures Australia - social enterprise hub is a non-profit business whose sole purpose is to create employment for people with a disability, people with mental illness, migrants, refugees, disadvantaged youth, Indigenous Australians and the long-term unemployed," Ms Jarratt said.

"A social enterprise hub is a transition to employment or an ongoing source of employment for these people who will be paid a real wage for the work that they will do.

"The project is part of the Participate in Prosperity program to identify people and groups locked out of the labour force, linking them with government services and assistance to help improve their social inclusion and workforce participation."

Member for Ipswich Rachel Nolan said the Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative funding will be used by Social Ventures Australia to give community organisations in Ipswich the funds they need to support and identify the internal and external training needs of their staff.

"Social Ventures Australia are responsible for strengthening areas within the social enterprises making it easier for them to employ marginalised people and keep them in employment for longer," Ms Nolan said.

"The Social Ventures Hub will be set-up to support these community-based organisations through business training and mentoring, management tools, pro bono support and procurement opportunities. They will also assist these businesses with financial planning and funding to assist in employing marginalised people.

"Ipswich community organisations that have come on board include BoysTown Ipswich, Changing Landscapes, CityCare Technology, Tivoli Drive-In and Volunteering Ipswich."

The Ipswich City Council has also contributed financial and in-kind support to the development of the hub.

Participate in Prosperity offers a coordinated whole-of-government approach as government, non-government organisations and the community work together to identify service gaps that need to be filled.

It is a \$22 million, four-year strategy coordinated through the Queensland Government's Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative.

During 2008/09 the Queensland Government will invest \$101 million in the Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative to give more than 21,000 long-term unemployed and underemployed people job related assistance and skills training to maximise labour force participation and increase Queensland's prosperity.

Twelve months after receiving assistance 71 per cent of participants are in employment or further training.

The Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative is part of the State Government's \$1 billion Queensland Skills

The Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative is part of the State Government's \$1 billion Queensland Skills Plan which aims to provide individuals and industry with the skills and workforce for the 21st Century.

Skilling Queenslanders for Work supports the Government's Toward Q2 vision of investing in skills and helping people to participate in the workforce.

For more information on the Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative visit www.employment.qld.gov.au or call 1300 369 925.