

A strong voice for our future

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**MEMBER FOR KEPPEL
AND ASSISTANT MINISTER
FOR EDUCATION**



MEDIA RELEASE

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Jobs in the making after Skilling grants

Making unemployed people more employable will be made easier thanks to local grants in the latest round of Skilling Queenslanders for Work (SQW) funding.

The Member for Keppel and Assistant Education Minister said five Central Queensland grants were among 129 community-based projects statewide, delivered by not-for-profit organisations and local councils.

“They have been awarded nearly \$24 million to provide nationally recognised training and job opportunities to 3,280 disadvantaged Queenslanders.”

Ms Lauga said one local training company MRAEL would use its \$64,100 grant for its Community Work Skills “Step into resources and infrastructure work preparation” in Rockhampton.

“This is a key area in Central Queensland where mines and mining infrastructure are growing, and demand for employees goes along with it.

“Skilling Queenslanders for Work is one of many Palaszczuk Government programmes which are designed to help people get back into the workforce through upskilling.

“Along with things such as free TAFE, it’s all about matching up people and skills with jobs and industries.”

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MRAEL's chief executive officer Christine Zechowski said the project is specifically designed to provide 24 targeted local people with an opportunity to develop employability skills, and achieve a Certificate II level qualification.

"The core objective is to increase participants' capacity to join the workforce in entry-level job roles within the Resources and Infrastructure workforce.

"We chose this field because of the large volume of infrastructure projects and activity that is planned for within the Rockhampton and wider Fitzroy regions."

She said the funding would include young people aged 15-24, under-utilised or under-employed workers, disadvantaged job seekers and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People.

"There will also be wider community benefit brought by the funding, as participants will complete practical, project-based work at the Rockhampton Golf Club – including construction of pathways and walkways."

Other training groups which were successful in obtaining grants included the Women's Health, Information and Referral Service C.Q. Inc (\$36,100); Multicultural Australia Ltd in North Rockhampton (\$611,000) and

PHOTO: Member for Keppel Brittany Lauga with MRAEL's Charlene McKenzie and Angela from SDS Training, an RTO partner.

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