

Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier

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What we know and what I have learned over my many years in public life and business is that the best form of welfare is a job. The best form of welfare is a strong economy. That is something I learned under the Howard-Costello government since my time in federal parliament. It is an incredibly important solution, something that has been totally neglected in the contribution from the member for Denison, who brought forward this motion.

This comes on the back of the mismanagement and maladministration by the Labor-Greens government in this state and at the federal level. There is a \$20 billion black hole in federal Labor's plans for Australia. They do not want to hear about the mismanagement and maladministration of the economy because it goes directly to their integrity and their ability to manage the economy. Who do you trust in terms of ensuring a stronger economy and providing jobs and growth for the future of our people in Tasmania?

We inherited a \$1.1 billion budget black hole and now we are fixing the mess that Labor and the Greens have left us. We have put forward a long-term plan. We are acting on that long-term plan and now the opportunity is to inject the savings and rewards of that hard effort, those difficult and tough decisions, to ensure essential services are provided across Tasmania. That is a very wise, prudent, sensible and balanced approach. That is something this Government has been undertaking.

In terms of the tax cuts for small business, that is the engine room of our economy which is now delivering and will deliver jobs and growth for Tasmania in the future. This is a great news story. Matt Shepperd, owner-manager with his brother of Shepperd Plumbing, is looking at putting on two apprentices very swiftly. He was talking about by 30 June and the tax cuts kick in 1 July. He is very confident and hopeful. That is good news for small business and young people who are trying to get a job and make a start. Those tax cuts for small business are delivering and that is very encouraging.

The member who has brought this motion forward has not even mentioned small business. They are the engine room of our economy, employing over 100,000 Tasmanians. The member for Lyons, who is carping and criticising on the other side, should be interested in small business and that we have 36,000 of them. The vast bulk, 94 per cent of them, will benefit from these tax cuts and will be providing jobs, growth and development.

One other initiative important for young Tasmanians is the youth jobs initiative, the Prepare, Trial, Hire initiative. It is a \$751 million initiative that will maximise the chances of jobseekers under 25 getting a job. I see that Kym Goodes from TasCOSS has welcomed this initiative and that is appreciated. For 120,000 young Australians over the four years it will help them secure a job. Do we want to support young people getting a job? The response from this side of the House is yes, but I do not hear the responses from the other side. Well, support it. Say congratulations and well done to the federal Treasurer, Scott Morrison and the Government for delivering on that program. It will provide employability skills training to help prepare young jobseekers for the work place.

The internship placements will go from some four to 12 weeks. That will be a voluntary program, providing incentives of \$1,000 up-front to a business to host an intern and \$200 fortnightly payments to the jobseekers on top of their income support. This is helping young people get into the workforce. We want long-term

unemployment to come down. A youth bonus wage subsidy of between \$6,500 and \$10,000 will be available to the businesses who take on the eligible young jobseeker.

The business groups, small businesses and others out there have welcomed this initiative. These are vulnerable young Tasmanians who are desperately in need of a job and want to get a start in life. This is going to provide an opportunity.