



Speech by

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Dakabin Jobs Pathway Program

Mrs LAVARCH (Kurwongbah—ALP) (11.20 p.m.): In the last Adjournment debate of last year, I brought to the attention of the House the great work being done by the combined efforts of the high schools in the Pine Rivers area. I spoke of the Pine Rivers State High School, the Bray Park State High School, the Albany Creek State High School and the Dakabin State High School joining forces to form a committee to bring schools, industry and business together to enhance vocational opportunities for their students. I also advised the House of this group's success in obtaining funding to operate a Jobs Pathway Program for school leavers.

Tonight I want to take this opportunity to pay special tribute to the extraordinary efforts of the team who have made Dakabin's Jobs Pathway Program the great success that it is. It is called the Dakabin Jobs Pathway Program because the location of the program is at the Dakabin State High School, but it is the combined efforts of all the high schools in the Pine Rivers area.

In less than three months, the Jobs Pathway Program has assisted 149 Year 12 school leavers from 1998 to gain full-time work. Sixty of these positions are traineeships, with a further 30 being apprenticeships—apprenticeships which, in a very difficult youth market, are a credit to the marketing by the Jobs Pathway Program with employer groups; and apprenticeships and traineeships which have, in some instances, been the direct result of the Breaking the Unemployment Cycle initiative of the Beattie Labor Government.

This program has made a real difference to the lives of young people in Pine Rivers and across Queensland. The people of Pine Rivers, the parents and those involved in the Jobs Pathway Program have specifically asked me to pass on thanks to the Minister responsible and to the Beattie Government for making these opportunities available. The benefits of the Breaking the Unemployment Cycle program can never be underrated. This shows that good government can and does make a difference to people's lives.

The Jobs Pathway Program team are very conscious of the fact that the job market does not have a glut of trainee positions and that they have been able to acquire for their participants more than their fair share. But their success is no accident. It has come about through the commitment of many—and quick actions—in having the program up and running by the end of last year. This included the speedy appointment of the Jobs Pathway Program coordinator, Mark Clark, and the prominent promotion by each school principal of the Jobs Pathway Program in their school community, together with the coordination of a registration process by each school's head of department senior schooling and the involvement of guidance officers from each school—to list but some of the cooperation.

From the time of the official launch in November last year, it has been all systems go. All of this has taken massive energy and practical support, which has been readily forthcoming. I understand that this is the only Jobs Pathway Program in Queensland—and maybe Australia—that has been operated by personnel within high schools. This has seen the coordinator and those involved in the program being able to marry up information between their school leavers and employers and meet the needs of their school leavers more readily.

I wanted to bring to the attention of the House that the Jobs Pathway Program was a program initiative within Working Nation under the Keating Labor Government. It has been one of the programs that the Howard Government has continued. Yet I believe that that program is now under threat, and I

ask all members of the House to get in contact with the Jobs Pathway Programs in their electorates, find out what is happening and advocate the continuation of this program. It is one program that truly delivers and gives support to school leavers.
