



Speech by

**LINDA LAVARCH**

**STATE MEMBER FOR KURWONGBAH**

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Hansard 15 April 1999

### **EMPLOYMENT**

**Mrs LAVARCH** (Kurwongbah—ALP) (10.26 a.m.): I have reported previously to the House on how the Pine Rivers area is benefiting from the Breaking the Unemployment Cycle program. In particular, I have reported on how the increase in apprenticeships and traineeships has benefited many Pine Rivers school leavers.

With the recent emphasis on apprenticeships and traineeships, there has unfortunately been a perception that we are only concentrating on employment programs and initiatives for young people. Nothing could be further from the truth. Today, I am pleased to inform honourable members of two new programs to be delivered in the Pine Rivers area to give 60 disadvantaged and long-term unemployed people, and especially mature age unemployed, more job skills and more employment opportunities. These projects are being funded under the State Government's Community Assistance Program, which is part of the Beattie Labor Government's Breaking the Unemployment Cycle initiative.

The two 12-month programs will be delivered by the Strathpine-based East Coast Training and Employment—a well-respected and well-established non-profit community organisation covering the Pine Rivers, Caboolture and Redcliffe areas. I might add that East Coast Training and Employment is a group training company employing 141 apprentices and trainees.

Of the two new programs, one is specifically designed for mature age job seekers and the other is targeted towards job seekers re-entering the work force and will assist women, sole parents and redundancy recipients as well as disadvantaged young people, many of whom are not eligible for Centrelink and who are presently falling through the gap. These projects will help to close that gap.

I would like to congratulate Alan Sparks and his dedicated team at East Coast Training and Employment for their work in enhancing employment opportunities for many in the Pine Rivers, Caboolture and Redcliffe areas.

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