



Speech by

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STATE MEMBER FOR KURWONGBAH

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DAKABIN JOBS PATHWAY PROGRAM

Mrs LAVARCH (Kurwongbah—ALP) (10.14 a.m.): School is out for the Year 12 class of 1999 and schoolies week is over. And might I add that our young people are to be congratulated on their exemplary behaviour during schoolies week. Now it is time for contemplating their future. Many school leavers will go on to further studies, and many others have lined up a traineeship, an apprenticeship or a job. Others are still undecided or still looking for work. Of course, this can be a very daunting prospect, and it undermines confidence as time goes on.

In the Pine Rivers area, our school leavers are blessed to have the support of an excellent Jobs Pathway program—the Dakabin Jobs Pathway program. I reported to the House a year ago that the Dakabin State High School was funded to run a Jobs Pathway program for all Pine Rivers high schools. I am happy to report that it has been funded again to run the program for the 1999-2000 year. Given its great success last year in finding jobs placements, this is not surprising. The commitment and dedication of the JPP team, under the leadership of Mark Clarke and Kay Gottle, saw the unemployment rate for Pine Rivers school leavers over the past year at 2%; that is right, a 2% unemployment rate for school leavers, and it aims to do better this year.

For the 751 school leavers from high schools in Pine Rivers, I know that the support of the Dakabin Jobs Pathway program will give them a great head start in their working life. The mission of the program is to assist young people to make a smooth transition from school to work. The motto is: preparing our youth to be leaders of tomorrow. The work to date of the Dakabin Jobs Pathway program makes the JPP team true to their word. They are to be congratulated.
