



Speech by

**Mr P. PURCELL**

**MEMBER FOR BULIMBA**

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Hansard 9 December 1999

**MR S. COWAN**

**Mr PURCELL** (Bulimba—ALP) (10.29 a.m.): Today I want to pay tribute to a hardworking and dedicated constituent and mate of mine, Shane Cowan. In 1980, Shane commenced employment with the newly formed Colmslie CYSS as a welding tutor. In 1989, the Colmslie CYSS amalgamated with the Stones Corner CYSS to become Skillshare Stones Corner. Its client base increased from 100 to 1,500. On 30 April 1998, Skillshare Stones Corner joined a consortium of four other Skillshares to become Career Employment Australia. Shane has worked continuously with all those groups, and today Shane is the group manager of Career Employment Australia. He works with 46 staff. This is certainly a far cry from his humble beginnings in a rented house in Burarri Street, Morningside.

Today Career Employment Australia covers an area from Caboolture to northern New South Wales. Over the past 19 years Shane and his dedicated staff have assisted thousands of young people with training, gaining employment and, in general, turning their lives around. Along with lacking the necessary skills to obtain employment, the majority of these young people also had multiple barriers to overcome.

Shane is one of the most caring and dedicated individuals I have had the pleasure to meet. He never loses his smile. His sincerity and general enthusiasm inspires both staff and clients to always strive for better results. This is reflected in the fact that Career Employment Australia has an average success rate of 79% for employment of their clients.

Many of the members of the Stones Corner Community Training Association also have a long history going back to the CYSS. John Shepley, the president, who was the original coordinator of the Colmslie CYSS; hardworking vice-president, Brian Daley; dedicated secretary, Barry Cosgrove; and the "never mislay a bean counter" and Treasurer, Sharon Luckus, all have been involved since 1980 and continue to voluntarily give their assistance and guidance. Shane is very fortunate in the fact that he is not only ably supported by his dedicated staff and committee, but also by his family. Shane's wife and their daughters, Sharnay, Keohnie, Jaydon and Meeko, are his best friends and supporters.

Time expired.

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