



Speech by

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**CABOOLTURE SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM
BEERWAH AND DISTRICT YOUTH ACTIVITY CENTRE**

Ms MALE (Glass House—ALP) (11.14 p.m.): I rise to speak about an important program at Caboolture, the Social Infrastructure Program. Tonight, I am really pleased to be able to mention that the Beattie Labor government has funded it for another \$50,000 to take it through to the end of June next year.

The Social Infrastructure Program is an innovative project that was started by the Families Department. It has brought together all the sectors of the entire Caboolture shire. They work together on projects, they meet every month, and they discuss issues. They have undertaken a very important mapping project of the shire, where they have looked at the types of services that are available and what they can do to improve them, where they need to go for government funding and all the rest. The sectors that are working together are the aged, people who have a non-English speaking background, youth, families, people with disabilities, rural communities, indigenous people, and women.

The group is pulled together by a fantastic social planner who works at the shire council, Howard Buckley. For over five years now he has been driving the program. He has worked very carefully with the people to bring them all together. We have a harmonious group that uses money to fund projects for which they may not otherwise be able to obtain funding. They work on community empowerment and make sure that volunteers have every opportunity for training so that they can work within their communities to build better communities. They have worked very closely with Robert Schwarten's Community Renewal Program. That have tapped into that program so that they can make sure that their communities are going very well.

However, I find it very disappointing that the local council, which auspices the program, is not putting any money into it. Although they provide some of Howard Buckley's time, they are not actually putting money into the program. The reason I am so disappointed with that is that often a lot of the social problems that our communities experience are due to poor council planning decisions. That is very much the case in this shire. However, I have worked very hard to help this group obtain that \$50,000, so I am happy to see that happen.

The other thing that I want to talk about very briefly is a program called BADIAC—the Beerwah and District Youth Activity Centre. We have managed to obtain funding for their two workers who run the flexischool, which is for kids who cannot fit into the normal high school process. They work through distance education. Those kids have very dedicated volunteers and staff who help them complete their secondary education. When the centre started in 1999, one student went through to the year 10 stage. In 2001, the centre managed to help 10 students to get their year 10 certificates and another 10 have almost completed it. That is all due to the fantastic work that is done by Barbara Eccles and Lucy Bygate, all under the direction of Michelle Lecky. That is a magnificent achievement.

The other night I went to the centre's AGM. It was very encouraging to see two young people deciding to go on the committee to help guide the whole school. The BADIAC is just going from strength to strength. We are working to get the centre funding for next year. Hopefully, that alternative education will continue.
