



Speech by

JOHN ENGLISH

MEMBER FOR REDLANDS

Hansard 16 October 2001

HORIZON FOUNDATION INC.

Mr ENGLISH (Redlands—ALP) (7.18 p.m.): I rise to inform the House about an organisation providing support and employment opportunities for people with disabilities. I am speaking of the Horizon Foundation Inc. The Horizon Foundation carries out its activities through the Redlands, Logan and Gold Coast areas. The Executive Director, Mr Joe Gamblin, runs an extensive network of programs to support people with a disability.

The diverse range of services is evidenced by services such as Dial a Mower, which provides a ground maintenance team specialising in such services as lawn mowing, rubbish removal or landscape design for either industrial or commercial jobs; and Marketforce, which provides a wide range of personalised services including bulk mailing, packaging, collating, laminating, heat sealing and comb binding, which I intend using for some distributions in my own electorate. There is also a business called Wire and Wood Products, which manufactures quality wood products in popular hardware, pet and nursery lines. Most of the wooden saw horses that are sold in south-east Queensland would be built in Horizons' Wire and Wood Products workshop.

Through the support offered by programs such as ICAN, AXIOM and COAST, many post-school young people with disabilities are supported to maximise the level of community independence that can be enjoyed by young adults with a disability. Horizon Foundation also runs an employment service, assisting people with a disability or an injury to gain and maintain employment. I would like to highlight a local success story of Link Personnel.

A lady by the name of Angela Robinson suffers from minor cerebral palsy. She was employed by the Franklins supermarket in my local area. After the subsequent redevelopment and the problems that Franklins ran into, Woolworths bought the rights to the local Franklins store. Angela was lucky enough to be employed by Woolworths in the new Victoria Point Shopping Centre. Despite Angela's minor cerebral palsy, she has shown herself to be a highly dedicated and effective worker with Woolworths.

I have spoken to Angela and I have also spoken to the store manager there, Mark Mead, and discussed Angela's position. All the staff are extremely happy with her performance. I am sure that with the support of the store manager, Mark Mead, and the customer service manager, Selina Hovey, Angela will prove to be a very valuable employee of Woolworths. I have to compliment Woolworths and Horizon for allowing the process through which Angela Robinson can contribute to society, as do many of the other workers who are employed by the businesses run by the Horizon Foundation.
