



Speech by

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MEMBER FOR HERVEY BAY

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WIDE BAY GROUP TRAINING SCHEME AWARDS

Mr McNAMARA (Hervey Bay—ALP) (11.31 p.m.): Last Friday I was honoured to attend the Wide Bay Group Training Scheme annual awards night at Kondari Resort in Hervey Bay to represent the Minister for Employment and Training and the Minister for the Arts, Matt Foley, in celebrating the achievements of so many young apprentices and trainees in the Wide Bay area. As a former company secretary for the group scheme and a director for six years, I was well aware of the very important work which this not-for-profit company does in ensuring local apprentices and trainees continue to be planned for and employed locally.

However, under the stewardship of CEO Ross Tregidga and board chairman Fred Kleinschmidt, the company now has grown to have over 400 apprentices and trainees on its books, with host trainers providing training from as far afield as Brisbane, Ipswich, Bundaberg, Rockhampton and Townsville. I wish to pay tribute to all of the staff who are so hard working. It is no easy feat to support apprentices and trainees over such a wide geographic area, and the commitment of the field officers in particular has been extraordinary. I wish to single out Julie Pieper for special mention for her personal effort in sticking with the young people for whom she cares so much. She is a true inspiration.

While I congratulate all of the nominees and winners on the night, I wish to particularly congratulate those award winners from Hervey Bay. Daniel Mulhare won the Hervey Bay regional award, and his host trainer is Mulhare and Miles Electrical. Well done, Daniel. Brad Nugent won the outstanding achievement award for labour market programs for his work on the wonderful Links Mobility Corridor project. He has done outstanding work and has also shown natural leadership skills which were recognised on the night. John Dent won the award for outstanding apprentice stage 2, and his host trainer is Kingfisher Bay Resort and Village, which has itself been honoured many times by the Australian tourism industry. Dane Daillis won the very prestigious school based trainee apprentice of the year award. I also congratulate his host trainer, Best Caravan Services Hervey Bay.

I congratulate the winners also of the host employers of the year award. There can be no trainees and apprentices without host employers taking up that challenge. For small employers the winner was G&M Clarke Builders Hervey Bay and, for large employers, Holston Ford. It was a wonderful night attended by 300 guests and was a credit to all of the organising committee. Kondari Resort was again a splendid venue and I thank Geoff Mahoney and Kym Bell from Kondari for their care and attention to detail, which made the night run so smoothly.

On the night I spoke of how terribly important it was after the horror and tragedy of Bali that we continue to celebrate our achievements, to come together as a community and to retain those things which make it so wonderful to be an Australian. It was an important evening for my community and I say well done to everyone involved.