



Speech by

CHRIS FOLEY

Member for MARYBOROUGH

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MAISIE KAUFMANN LEARNING CENTRE

Mr CHRIS FOLEY (Maryborough—Ind) (10.37 p.m.): I rise to speak about some of the unsung heroes in the Maryborough electorate.

In July 1988 the Maisie Kaufmann Learning Centre was originally incorporated by its founder, Maisie Kaufmann, as the Peter Sports and Recreation Club for people with disabilities. In July 1991 it was incorporated as the Peter Pan Literacy Club Inc. to teach literacy, numeracy and everyday living skills to people with a disability. In March 1997 the Peter Pan Literacy Club Incorporated became a registered training organisation. In April 1998 the Peter Pan Literacy Club Incorporated registered its trading name as the Maisie Kaufmann Learning Centre in honour of its deceased founder. In February 2003 the Maisie Kaufmann Learning Centre opened its training centre doors on a full-time basis, providing accredited literacy and numeracy training to over 70 students with disabilities.

The funding to enable the centre to open was secured from the 2002-03 Community Responsive Training Program when the Hervey Bay Cerebral Palsy League submitted a collaborative bid incorporating six other disability organisations' support. Funds were gained to deliver literacy and numeracy training and utilise the Maisie Kaufmann Learning Centre as the registered training organisation.

The program is operated in rented rooms behind a church where a hive of activity occurs every day. Students undertake a range of programs including small motors, cooking, poetry, crafts, office skills and computers. These programs are the basis for the delivery of literacy, which is an integral part of the success of the program as students are learning hands-on skills while learning reading, writing, oral communication and maths skills.

The centre is empowering students to become confident and to participate in everyday activities. Students receive training from the course CNLITNUM, which is a course in adult literacy and numeracy. On successful completion of the program, they receive not only the opportunity to develop their literacy skills but also an accredited certificate. In addition to the literacy programs, the centre also delivers volunteer tutor programs through funds secured under the Community Responsive Training Program. The program trains people who have committed to volunteering their time to assisting people to learn how to read and write.

The accredited training program course in volunteer tutoring is delivered in a variety of centres in order to enhance literacy skills in other organisations. This includes youth, through Youth Care, people with a disability, through Endeavour, people of multicultural descent, through neighbourhood centres in Maryborough and Hervey Bay, and in total 45 people are enrolled in a volunteer tutor training class run by the Maisie Kaufmann Learning Centre. I congratulate the Maisie Kaufmann Learning Centre on its excellent and compassionate work for people with disabilities in Maryborough.