



Speech by

CHRIS FOLEY

Member for MARYBOROUGH

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YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN EDUCATION AND TRAINING BILL; TRAINING REFORM BILL

Mr CHRIS FOLEY (Maryborough—Ind) (3.17 p.m.): I rise to speak in support of the Youth Participation in Education and Training Bill and Training Reform Bill. As someone who left school at 14 because I was bored and disinterested, I know how hard it has been to play educational catch-up. I have spent the majority of my adult life studying.

John Maxwell, in the excellent series *Ten Things My Father Taught Me*, said that people have to either work now and play later or play now and work later. That is true in terms of the aims of these bills.

I have been privileged to be a part of the educational and training reform cluster group in Maryborough which has been headed up by Ed Manly, the principal of Aldridge High School. It has been great to participate with Ed, who is a first-class operator who really cares for kids in Maryborough. Also a member of that group was my namesake Shaun Foley on behalf of the indigenous community in Hervey Bay and our wider area. Recently at St Mary's College we attended the launch of the outcomes of our educational and training reform cluster group. That was a fantastic occasion. The students catered for the afternoon and did a brilliant job.

My only concern is that kids who may have previously exited early to take up a job are now going to have to be funded by their parents for extended periods, even though that may in some cases be a rare occasion. Like previous speakers, I would like to see the retention of school based traineeships, in particular our service in Maryborough coordinated by Ann Morris, who has a brilliant reputation as a hardworking and capable person in getting jobs for young people. Edward de Bono has done significant work on the different styles of intelligence and the different styles of learning. Clearly when it comes to education one size does not fit all.

I commend the aims of these bills in seeking to engage kids for longer and capture their imagination so they can stay on and get a decent education. Of course, that would lead then to better employment opportunities in the long term. Therefore I commend these bills to the House.