



Speech by

CHRIS FOLEY

Member for MARYBOROUGH

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FRASER COAST TRAINING EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT SERVICE INC.

Mr CHRIS FOLEY (Maryborough—Ind) (7.27 p.m.): For the knowledge of the House, I would like to record that I have some people in the gallery of a somewhat unsavoury nature. If they cause any trouble, I am sure that the House will deal with them harshly. The Fraser Coast TESS is a tremendous organisation that provides help for at-risk youth. It was commenced under the Community Youth Support Service in November 1983. This program, with its coordinator, Dawn Smith-Brown, is a fantastic program and is very well respected by everyone in the community of Maryborough.

Some of the organisation's statistics are quite impressive. Over the past year, 60 placements have been made for traineeships under its user choice program, which is a hospitality office and business stores and warehousing and rural program. It has also placed 20 people in what it calls the youth access program, which takes at-risk students from schools and teaches them hands-on skills in office, rural, hospitality and retail work readiness. The jobs pathway program, which the organisation established in 1999, has seen an astounding 400 people placed. That program identifies people, again of an at-risk nature, and looks at placing them into the employment arena.

Around 200 people a year have come through the Community Work Coordinators and Work for the Dole programs since 1998. It finds sponsors or host organisations who will be able to benefit from extra help and assist unemployed people in learning skills. The Personal Support Program, formerly called Community Support, made 66 placements. Over the last three years it has made 120 placements. That is another tremendous thing this organisation does. It currently has 60 people in its Community Employment Assistance Program and a further 10 under its current jobs plan. The Community Training Program for 2003 is looking to around 30 to 40 people being placed in assistance to upgrade skills in relation to things such as computers and aged care. There are eight people in that program currently upgrading welding skills. Under the Vegus funds program indigenous youth learn to cope with school and learn new skills with literacy and numeracy help. They also undergo a mixture of activities.

TESS also services the Hervey Bay community. It has funded 15 people under its Community Youth Program. The GAP program has looked after about 20 people per year for 2002 and 2003. That program, run five days a week, addresses literacy and numeracy to year 10 level English and maths to provide kids with real life learning tools. There are currently 10 recycling centres working in cooperation with the Maryborough City Council. TESS is effectively caretaker of the three tip sites.

Time expired.