



Speech by

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MEMBER FOR NUDGE

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ZILLMERE AND DISTRICT TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT PATHWAY PROJECT

Mr NEIL ROBERTS (Nudgee—ALP) (9.08 p.m.): I want to outline to the House the success of the recently completed Zillmere and district training and employment pathway project. The pathway project was undertaken by Brisbane City Council following a \$250,000 grant provided by the Department of Employment and Training under its Community Training Partnership Program. BCC provided \$75,000 to support the project. The pathway project offered training programs to mature-age, long-term unemployed people, people without sustainable employment, women wanting to re-enter the work force and small business owners and their staff. Forty-seven per cent of participants were women wanting to re-enter the work force and 31 per cent were long-term unemployed.

Three hundred and fifty-seven people enrolled in training programs over a period of 18 months and less than 5 per cent failed to complete their training. Follow-up research showed that 55 per cent of participants had found either full-time or casual work and a further 15 per cent had engaged in further training, which is a 70 per cent success rate.

The courses offered under the program were in business, hospitality, retail, transport and senior first aid. The courses were based on research that was undertaken as a part of the Brisbane City Council's Brisbane middle north local economic development strategy into the kind of employment available and the skills needed for our local area.

The program provided accredited training funded mainly by the Queensland Department of Employment and Training, and unaccredited training funded by the Brisbane City Council. The community training program is a fine example of how a successful partnership between the state government and the Brisbane City Council has delivered significant benefits to the local economy of north-east Brisbane and also to its many participants.

I congratulate the Brisbane City Council officers involved in the project team, particularly project coordinator Jeanette Mellis, support officer Luke Bootle and local economic development officer Lorraine Price. Thank you also to the participants and members of the project advisory committee who gave so much of their time to ensure the project's success.

During the course of the program I had several opportunities to join with participants to celebrate the completion of their training. I want to conclude by quoting one testimonial provided by just one of the course participants, Joan. Joan had been out of the work force for a long period—in fact, many years. She had this to say about what the program meant to her—

I did not have any skills or faith in myself until I met Jeanette Mellis and her wonderful team. The courses they offered me boosted my self-esteem and also gave me the skills that I needed to go out into the work force and find a job. I am no longer afraid to apply for work because of the wonderful course that this program provided.

That is just one example of the successful partnerships and outcomes achieved under the government's Community Training Partnership Program.

