




Speech by
Grace Grace

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard Thursday, 27 October 2011

TERALBA PARK, GREEN ARMY

 **Ms GRACE** (Brisbane Central—ALP) (5.08 pm): On Wednesday, 19 October I had the pleasure of representing Minister Hinchliffe at the graduation of a Green Army flood recovery restoration project. This was a great project that saw eight Brisbane job seekers from the culturally and linguistically diverse community having helped restore a flood affected park in Mitchelton as part of Queensland's Green Army.

Teralba Park reserve was badly damaged by January's floods, with high volumes of debris entangling native trees and plants. The park was rehabilitated through work undertaken by participants of the flood recovery 2011 project being held at Teralba Park in Mitchelton. Our Green Army workers did a fantastic job and they can feel a sense of real achievement knowing they helped restore this important recreational area. The Multicultural Community Centre received \$133,600 as part of the federal and state government's \$83 million Queensland natural disasters job and skills package to deliver the 16-week Green Army work placement project to job seekers from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, and I believe it is money well spent. It is a great project that helps equip job seekers with the skills needed to secure meaningful work.

The Multicultural Community Centre director, Jeannie Mok, and her husband, David Mok, did a fantastic job. They saw the work activities that were being undertaken firsthand. They included the removal and stacking of debris in and around the catchment riparian zone and the extensive replanting of existing and new shrubbery. As such, participants developed a variety of horticultural skills and gained valuable work experience through the project. Each graduate also completed a certificate I in horticulture and achieved their construction white card. Participants achieved a significant feat for the local community while greatly enhancing their own work employability. One participant has since gained employment as a result of the project.

I believe that this project ticks all the boxes. It gives people without a job the opportunity to learn new skills, it gives them the ability to help areas that require restoration following the floods and it delivers real, good outcomes not only for them from a skills sense but also for the community, which benefits from the work that was undertaken. Although this project was auspiced under the careful hands of the Multicultural Community Centre established in my electorate, they were able to go into other electorates such as to Mitchelton and help out in a park that was devastated by the floods. I saw the before-and-after photos. Their supervisors could not talk highly enough of the eight people who were involved in this work. They worked tirelessly throughout this 16-week project. I thought they did an absolutely commendable job.