




Speech by

David Kempton

MEMBER FOR COOK

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NAPRANUM

 **Mr KEMPTON** (Cook—LNP) (3.02 pm): I would like to inform the House that the Napranum Aboriginal community is today engaged in a whole-of-community change program that will bring significant and lasting changes in terms of its community growth and economic development. Minister Elmes and the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Multicultural Affairs are supporting this community owned and driven initiative.

Napranum sits just 15 kilometres from the mining town of Weipa, yet it is rated as one of the most underprivileged communities in Queensland. Today, 30 young adults of Napranum are undertaking a program that matches their life skills and values to vocations and employment opportunities and it is a first for Indigenous communities. The program commences with a values based assessment of each individual. I would like to share some of the responses: 'I am overwhelmed by self-doubt,' 'I am afraid of failure,' 'I just can't find the right job so I give up,' 'I'm scared I won't succeed.' After just one hour of one-on-one coaching, we are hearing positive feedback from these young people such as, 'Every step I take is a step of faith for generations to come,' and 'My choice, my values, my beliefs are all God's gifts from above,' and 'I am a strong Indigenous woman.'

The assessment and coaching reveals that the young adults of Napranum aspire to be teachers, accountants, nurses, lawyers, engineers, fitness instructors and office workers. The usual range of jobs available to these people are labourers, clerical workers, yardsmen, gardeners, rangers and so on, yet these did not rate a mention in this process. These young people all have aspirations, as do young people everywhere.

This program is all about choice. If the communities of Cape York are given a choice, then it is obvious they will elect a better way to go forward. However, it has to be their choice and not what we think is best for them. Napranum is taking the lead in community based change and does not rely upon expensive top-down intervention or government control. The people of Napranum simply need support to bring about lasting change. It is time we took the training wheels off the bicycle and let these communities ride along. They may fall off a few times, but ultimately they will succeed.

This program has all the hallmarks of success and will be an example to all communities of a new way forward. I would like to share the feedback from one leader involved in the first stage of the program which commenced in December last year. She said, 'Three months ago we embarked on a journey that has played a big role'—

(Time expired)