




Speech by
Ian Kaye

MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES

Hansard Thursday, 15 November 2012

GREENSLOPES ELECTORATE, YOUTH EMPLOYMENT FORUM

 **Mr KAYE** (Greenslopes—LNP) (3.44 pm): I rise in this House to speak about an exciting initiative I have the pleasure of partnering in and co-sponsoring. On Monday, 5 November 2012 I partnered with the Multicultural Development Association, headed by Kerrin Benson and graciously assisted by Sally Stewart and Sebastian Ross-Hagebaum; the Queensland Program of Assistance to the Survivors of Torture and Trauma; Penny Cutting, president of the South East Brisbane Chamber of Commerce; and numerous businesses to host a youth employment forum proudly held in the Greenslopes electorate. This forum took the form of a Q&A panel session with six employers forming the panel. About 75 youth from many cultural backgrounds attended, along with other business owners and leaders. I am very grateful to the Hon. Glen Elmes, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Multicultural Affairs and Minister Assisting the Premier for taking the time to open the forum. His presence was warmly welcomed by all who were in attendance and certainly confirmed the importance of the event.

The youth were able to ask many questions about what employers are looking for from potential employees and how they could better themselves to get that job. Some of the questions asked were about topics such as information regarding Australian workplaces and recruitment processes, formal and informal networks to get a foot in the door, English language and communication suitable for work, opportunities for local work experience and awareness of workplace practices in terms of cultural dress. The knowledge that was gained by both youth and businesses alike was invaluable. The Q&A session was followed by a networking session and dinner. Tables were set up with an employer at each. The youth were then able to ask specific questions of employers one-on-one.

I am pleased to report to the House that two young people who attended on the night now have jobs as a direct result. About 15 have interviews scheduled for this week. Another employer has committed to hiring more people whom they spoke to on the night. Furthermore, the Multicultural Development Association has formed new partnerships with some of the employers who attended. Many of the young people who attended the forum have said that they are now more aware and confident in their job seeking efforts.

I would like to thank the employers who formed the panel, including Woolworths, McDonald's, the Queensland Police Service, the Greenslopes Private Hospital, All Purpose Transport and Australian Country Choice. I would also like to thank all the other employers who attended for the networking session. Apart from my contribution, sponsorship was also received from some of the other attending employers to make the forum possible and for that I know the young people are very grateful. I congratulate the MDA, QPASTT, the South East Brisbane Chamber of Commerce, Youth Voice and the employers for all the hard work and time that went into preparing and running this forum. I was truly thrilled on the night, but I am even more excited about the success which has followed. We have already begun planning more of these forums and I encourage all members of this House who may be interested in running similar forums to contact me for details. This is a great example of partnerships between private industry, community services and government producing real outcomes. This is what being a local member is all about and it is why I entered politics—to make a positive difference to people's lives.