




Speech by

Steve Davies

MEMBER FOR CAPALABA

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HORIZON FOUNDATION

 **Mr DAVIES** (Capalaba—LNP) (6.19 pm): Right across this state of Queensland there are many amazing not-for-profit groups that provide vital services for those with disabilities, their families and carers. Tonight I would like to commend to the House the fabulous work of a well-respected community organisation in my own electorate, the Horizon Foundation. For those members who are unaware, the Horizon Foundation is one of Queensland's leading and most respected disability organisations. Based in Capalaba for more than 30 years, Horizon has a workforce of over 120. Recently, *Business Review Weekly* recognised Horizon Foundation in its 'Top 50 great places to work' list.

The Horizon Foundation is one of the gems of our community, assisting over 1,300 people with disabilities each year through a diverse range of services and programs that include employment and training, family and individual support programs, business enterprise centres and post-schooling support services. In particular, I would like the House to take note of two programs that Horizon provides. First, Clear Horizon provides the very important transition from school to adult life for those with disabilities. Operating in the Redlands and the wider Brisbane region, Clear Horizon provides a range of innovative and customer focused, post-school programs delivered via friendly four-person groups and one-on-one services that are tailored to meet the particular needs of the individual.

Secondly, I would like to highlight the innovative Baby Bridges Program, which is currently expanding across the state and which aims to fill the gap in support services for families of young children with disabilities. The program, the brainchild of Horizon Foundation staff member Geraldine McKinnon, actually started as a pilot project almost seven years ago. This project has been so successful in meeting the challenges faced by families with a child with disabilities that it is now operating in seven—and soon to be nine—other locations around the state. Baby Bridges is aimed at families with children of up to five years of age who have been diagnosed with, or are under diagnosis for, recognised disabilities. The 12-week program consists of play and therapy sessions for the children and information, training and networking sessions for parents to help them negotiate the disability sector maze. Baby Bridges is free for eligible families and provides a vital service that 'bridges' the service gap for parents of babies and young children with a disability.

Horizon's Baby Bridges Program operates in Logan, Ipswich, Carrara, Warner, Dalby, Mackay and Noosa, with Townsville and Cairns soon to join the list. I respectfully request members for these areas to seek out this program and see for themselves the wonderful work of the Horizon Foundation and give them their every support.