



Speech By  
**Joan Pease**


**MEMBER FOR LYTTON**

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Record of Proceedings, 7 May 2015

**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**BABI Youth and Family Service**

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (2.33 pm): I rise today to thank the Premier and the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills on the exciting announcement regarding Skilling Queenslanders for Work. The news of this initiative has been received with much excitement in my electorate of Lytton by a number of organisations, none more so than by BABI Youth and Family Service. This vibrant and innovative organisation is excited at the prospect of delivering opportunities for disadvantaged baysiders to access skills and training that will have long-term social and economic benefits for employees and employers alike through the Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative.

BABI is a much loved organisation that celebrates young people, their strengths, their abilities, aspirations and courage and I am proud to have such an organisation in Lytton. Late one evening recently I was delighted to receive a call from Tracey Pavuna, the CEO of BABI. Tracey and I had been playing telephone tag over a couple of days. I had been trying to reach Tracey with the news of the Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative—good news for BABI Youth and Family Service and its clients and good news for organisations like BABI in my electorate and those across the state; good news that was very thin on the ground under the previous LNP government.

Tracey, a dedicated community worker, typical of people working in the sector, had been trying to reach me to also talk about the Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative. She wanted to say how excited she was about the opportunity for young people and the community that Skilling Queenslanders for Work will provide. She was also ringing me to invite me to participate in a planning meeting with local businesses, the chambers of commerce and other local employers to plan and develop a project that meets the needs of target groups and employers. This is an exciting time for all Queenslanders, particularly the people of the bayside, who suffered terribly at the hands of the previous LNP government. We lost so many services and as a result my community has suffered.

Skilling Queenslanders for Work is a tried and tested initiative and BABI has the expertise to deliver a high-quality product. I look forward to working with BABI and the community. I thank the Premier and the minister for reinstating this sensational initiative.