



Speech By


Bruce Saunders

MEMBER FOR MARYBOROUGH

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ADJOURNMENT

Maryborough TAFE

 **Mr SAUNDERS** (Maryborough—ALP) (10.15 pm): Tonight I rise to thank the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills, the member for Redcliffe, for the great work she has done in Maryborough. Some 12 months ago when I was declared the winner of the seat I said that we would get the TAFE open and operating again in Maryborough after being closed in the vicious cuts of the Newman era. It is a great thing for Maryborough city to see the TAFE now. I remember taking the minister there not long after I was elected. She got out of the car and said, 'Is this your TAFE?' The sign was hanging off. It looked like something out of a Third World country. Tonight I am proud to announce that TAFE has reopened in Maryborough and it is a fantastic facility.

An opposition member: With three students!

Mr SAUNDERS: Let me tell you: it has increased by 75 per cent—75 per cent! That is typical of the LNP. Maryborough has the highest rate of youth unemployment in the region and look at the carry-on from those across the chamber. We are giving the students and the people of Maryborough a chance to lift themselves up—something that the LNP never did. All the LNP did was put its foot on the back of their necks and drove them into the ground. That is all it did for the whole three years that it was in power. I am proud to say that I am part of the Palaszczuk government that has a minister, the member for Redcliffe, who is giving the people of Maryborough a chance for further education.

The Wide Bay will need between 3,000 and 4,000 people to carry out the NDIS over the next few years, and Maryborough will be the main training base for the NDIS in the Wide Bay. This would not have happened under the LNP. It took a Palaszczuk government to restore services that were cut to the bone by the previous LNP government. As they said around Maryborough, the lights were on but no-one was home in the TAFE. The TAFE facility is absolutely brilliant. I want to congratulate TAFE CEO, Jodi Schmidt, who has done a great job and the TAFE general manager for the east coast, Dr Paul Wilson. They have done a fantastic job along with the minister. TAFE managers and staff doorknocked all of the businesses in Maryborough and that is why the TAFE is now open. They tailored all of the programs to suit the local businesses. I am so proud when kids and parents come up and hug you with tears because they now know that they have an opportunity to further their education and to get employment and not be treated as second-class citizens like the previous government treated them. I congratulate the minister because she came, she saw, she listened and she acted, just like the Palaszczuk government is doing throughout Queensland.