




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR PINE RIVERS

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ADJOURNMENT

Youth Development Foundation

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (10.19 pm): At this time of the year, many of us in this place are going around to our local schools attending graduation and awards ceremonies. I want to talk about a great local organisation in my electorate called the Youth Development Foundation, which works with young people in my community that we would not ordinarily see at these events. YDF specialises in facilitating partnerships that improve outcomes for 15- to 29-year-olds—kids who are at risk of disengagement or who have already been disengaged from education, training and social inclusion. YDF creates a safe, neutral place where these young people feel supported and are able to explore solutions and find direction in their lives.

No sector can tackle deep-rooted social problems alone. Partnerships are really important for YDF, with stakeholders, sponsors and other community groups. YDF, like the Palaszczuk government, is very committed to lowering youth unemployment. Our schools report some of the highest levels of social disadvantage in Queensland. Those are things we are working on together.

Since September 2014, YDF has serviced 587 young people in our region, all of whom are deemed at risk or have major barriers to employment. YDF has worked with over 63 mentors and employers. Some 148 of their participants are women and 155 are from an Indigenous background. Some 194 have actually returned to study or school and 349 participants have commenced some form of employment. YDF aims to engage disengaged youth to retain education, employment and training. They tackle areas like our local shopping centre. They increase community awareness with government and non-government agencies. Really, it is about increasing the self-worth and accountability of these kids in our communities.

On top of that, YDF has an op shop, food hampers, community pantry for the needy, a soup kitchen and a social enterprise coffee shop. I want to give them a big shout-out today because the work they do in our community is absolutely fantastic. It is my pleasure to work with them. I know that other local members, such as the member for Kallangur, are working with them because we see what a difference they make in our community each and every day. The YDF 2 Do Crew is one of the ways we are working with them, with their yard and lawn maintenance programs. I want to shout out to Gerry Lister and Lachie Young. They do a lot of work with YDF. They are really driving it. Their passion and motivation can be seen through all in our community. They are doing a really fantastic job.

Their next project is to obtain a 25-year lease on a block and set up a community garden space and emergency crisis accommodation for local youth. I implore our local council and our mayor to come to the party and make sure we can continue to help youth in our community.