




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR NUDGE

Record of Proceedings, 7 September 2017

ADJOURNMENT

Nudgee Electorate, Skilling Queenslanders for Work

 **Ms LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (9.29 pm): It is a pleasure to have this opportunity to rise and update the House about a Skilling Queenslanders for Work graduation ceremony I recently attended in my electorate. Last month I had the pleasure of attending the Hendra Pony Club to congratulate the latest graduates of the Re-Gen Project run by the very inspiring Community Living Association of Nundah. The project is aimed to assist people with intellectual disability and people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds gain vital skills to assist in finding employment. The project is made possible by Skilling Queenslanders for Work funding. Graduates of the project have recently successfully completed a Certificate I in Conservation and Land Management, gaining on-the-job skills maintaining and restoring Hendra Pony Club, streetscaping at nearby Nundah Village and planting native shrubs around the Wavell Heights community centre. Participants also participated in job preparation activities including resume writing and job search assistance.

I took the opportunity to speak to each graduate and their families during the presentation not only to congratulate them but to ask what the program had meant to them. Had it been worthwhile? What had they gained from it? Would it make the difference in their journey to finding employment? Each of the graduates mentioned first and foremost that they had grown in confidence and, as a result, had now either gained employment, gained the confidence to pursue further study or felt that they now had job-ready skills to find employment.

The second thing each graduate raised was that the supportive learning environment they had experienced in a community setting where they felt that they were gaining real skills and making a real difference to the community had made all the difference and set them up for real outcomes. Eleven people from the two intakes have already found work. Two others are pursuing further training and I hope many more will similarly achieve their goals of employment and training. These are real people in our community achieving real outcomes from a program that makes an appreciable difference to those who need a leg-up to gain the skills they need to find work. They just need a go—an opportunity—and they need someone to believe in them, and we do.

I am proud to be a member of the Australian Labor Party—a party that has a proud tradition of giving people a go, that sees those that others might overlook and recognises that for some the barriers seem insurmountable and help is needed to traverse them and even the playing field. It is why I joined, it is why I ran for parliament and it is why I am so motivated to do what I do each and every day for my community. The \$240 million investment we are making in Skilling Queenslanders for Work is an investment in Queenslanders because we all deserve a fair go and a chance to gain the skills and training needed to get a job, to make a contribution, to be a part of Queensland's economy and to improve our and our family's quality of life.