



Speech By  
**Barry O'Rourke**


**MEMBER FOR ROCKHAMPTON**

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## ADJOURNMENT

### Project Booyah

 **Mr O'ROURKE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (2.09 am): I rise to speak about supporting our youth to achieve their dreams. Just recently I was fortunate to visit with youth who are participating in Project Booyah's hospitality and training course at Wilby's Restaurant in Rockhampton which is part of the Central Queensland University campus.

I also had the opportunity to meet Lachlan Savage, who was preparing for the 10-day trek through the Kokoda Trail. He will trek with fellow graduates of Project Booyah Liam King and Shai Hayden. Upon graduating from Project Booyah they were selected for the trek out of the last three rounds of graduates. It was my pleasure to hand over a personal cheque for \$500 to Lachlan and Senior Constable Joe Ramsay from Project Booyah towards fundraising for them to experience this adventure of a lifetime.

Project Booyah, which translates to an expression for joy, excitement or triumph, is a police run leadership and mentoring program that utilises adventure based learning, decision-making and problem-solving exercises, resilience training, policing strategies and family inclusive principles to help young people aged 15 to 16 years make better life choices. It was an honour to meet these young people who are working to turn their lives around and be fully involved with the program and what it has to offer.

Senior Constable Joe Ramsay, Project Booyah's coordinator, was on hand to talk to me about what the program was offering to our youth. Senior Constable Ramsay informed me that the program is the culmination of 17 weeks of hard work for the boys to complete Project Booyah's respect program and a Certificate II in Hospitality with Central Queensland University that supports Booyah participants in a variety of ways. The youth also volunteer at a number of different events. Senior Constable Ramsay said—

These boys are bonding together as a team and this is particularly pleasing as they work towards goals for each of them individually and for the group as a whole.

It is unfortunate that the federal government will no longer fund the \$720,000 over two years for the Commonwealth Safer Streets Program, which is linked to PCYC and Project Booyah. The federal LNP funding ends on 30 June 2018. As a result, youth workers engaged by PCYCs at Cairns, Townsville, Rockhampton, the Gold Coast and Logan will lose their jobs. Another great program that is making a difference in young people's lives is being cut by the federal LNP government.