




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR KEPPEL

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PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Project Booyah

 **Mrs LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (2.40 pm): Today I rise to speak about a program that is very dear to my heart and that is making a huge difference to the lives of young people in the Keppel electorate and in Central Queensland more broadly. Project Booyah is an early intervention youth program that changes the lives of young people. I have seen firsthand the difference that the program is making to people in my community, not only the young participants but also their families. In 2015, alongside a couple of community members who are really passionate about early intervention programs, I fought really hard to have Project Booyah rolled out in Central Queensland. In 2016, the first cohort of Project Booyah participants graduated. Last week, I attended the graduation ceremony of the fifth cohort of graduates from Project Booyah in Central Queensland. It is always a great pleasure to attend those graduation ceremonies, see the difference that the program makes and talk to the graduates themselves about the difference that the program is making to their lives.

Today I rise especially to draw attention to the fact that the federal government is mercilessly cutting \$720,000 from Project Booyah. The state Palaszczuk Labor government is funding the program to a tune of \$7.4 million over three years. I am very proud that the Palaszczuk government is funding that important program, which is shown to be working. I cannot believe that the federal LNP government is so mercilessly and cruelly cutting over \$700,000 from a program that is making a huge difference to the lives of people in my community.

I thank Project Booyah staff who work so tirelessly to help mentor and guide the young people from the Central Queensland community who participate in the program. In particular, I acknowledge Senior Constable Joe Ramsay, Senior Liaison Officer Randall Wawkill, Youth Support Officer Clare Warrington, Youth Support Officer Phil Nati and also teacher Samantha Cowie. Those people work incredibly hard to change the lives of young people who, having perhaps found themselves on the wrong side of the tracks, have decided that they need to make a change in their lives, so have become involved in Project Booyah. Those people are helping them along.

It is absolutely outrageous that the federal government would cut funding to a program that is shown to be working. We know that programs such as Project Booyah are making a difference. We know that they are helping people stay on the right side of the tracks in life. I call on the federal LNP government and Michelle Landry, our federal member for Capricornia, to talk to their Canberra colleagues about making sure that Project Booyah continues to be funded. The program needs more funding, not less.