




Speech By
Hon. Mark Ryan

MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD

Record of Proceedings, 28 February 2019

ADJOURNMENT

Morayfield Electorate, Small Business Network; Further Answer to Question, Youth Detention

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (6.25 pm): Every second Monday I host a small business networking coffee catch-up at a local cafe in the Caboolture region. Kicking off at 7.30 am, these coffee catch-ups give local small business owners the opportunity to hear about what grants are on offer and other supports that are available from our state government. Most importantly, they give local small business owners a forum to meet, talk and discuss opportunities about working together with each other in our region. From scratch, the small business catch-ups built steadily throughout last year and our first event of 2019, which was held at Revolution Espresso Lounge on Beerburrum Road at Caboolture, attracted more than 50 people.

Our success story from the small business network is local mobile mechanic Scott Vanderzalm from V-Mech Automotive. Scott and his wife Kristen successfully applied for a state government Small Business Entrepreneur grant earlier in 2018 and used the funds to engage professional assistance in putting together a strategy to grow their business. Through attending our coffee catch-ups, Scott has built his local clientele and provides a great service to many local small businesses throughout the region. This is just one example of how local businesses are making the most of a grassroots community opportunity provided by the Palaszczuk Labor government.

I also want to congratulate those local businesses and community organisations that received grants from the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program. Congratulations to Better Together Association, which received two grants to assist 126 jobseekers in the areas of retail and community service. Congratulations also to Wyatt from Better Together who is a regular attendee of the small business network coffee catch-up and uses the coffee catch-ups to place those graduates from Skilling Queenslanders for Work into volunteer roles and employment opportunities. Congratulations also to SkillCentred Queensland, which received a grant to support 18 women develop skills in the construction sector, and also to Reclink, which received a grant for the second phase of restoration work at Caboolture's Centenary Lakes. The project will employ and train 40 disadvantaged jobseekers over 22 weeks and the stage 1 graduates held their graduation last week. I congratulate them all on successfully completing the program.

Earlier today a question was asked of the Premier about education services provided to juvenile offenders detained in police watch houses. I am advised by the youth justice department that juvenile offenders detained in Brisbane city watch house receive on-site visits from Brisbane Youth Education training staff, including a teacher who is there every day, and are provided with education packs. I am also informed that these young offenders receive daily supervision, safety and wellbeing assessments by Youth Justice staff, along with family visits.

(Time expired)